

**FINAL**

**ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT  
FOR CONSTRUCTION OF AN  
ARMED FORCES RESERVE CENTER AND IMPLEMENTATION OF BRAC 05  
RECOMMENDATIONS AT  
SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA**



**Prepared for:**

**U.S. Army Reserve 99<sup>th</sup> Regional Support Command**

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**January 2009**

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**DRAFT FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT (FNSI) FOR THE  
CONSTRUCTION OF AN  
ARMED FORCES RESERVE CENTER AND  
IMPLEMENTATION OF BRAC 05 RECOMMENDATIONS AT  
SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA**

Pursuant to the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations (40 CFR 1400-1508) for implementing the procedural provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) (42 U.S.C. 4321 et. seq.) and the U.S. Department of Army Regulation 32 CFR 651 (Environmental Analysis of Army Actions; Final Rule), as well as policy and guidance provided by the *Base Realignment and Closure Manual for Compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act*, the U.S. Army conducted an environmental assessment (EA) of potential environmental effects associated with implementation of BRAC realignment actions.

**Purpose and Need.** On September 8, 2005, the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission (BRAC Commission) recommended certain realignment actions in Scranton, Pennsylvania. These recommendations were approved by the President on September 23, 2005 and were forwarded to Congress, and on November 9, 2005, the recommendations became law. The BRAC Commission recommendations must now be implemented as provided for in the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Act of 1990 (Public Law 101-510), as amended.

The BRAC Commission made the following recommendations concerning Scranton, Pennsylvania:

*“Close the Serrenti Memorial United States Army Reserve Center in Scranton, PA, the Serrenti Memorial United States Army Reserve Organizational Maintenance Shop in Scranton, PA, the United States Army Reserve Center in Wilkes-Barre, PA, and relocate units to a new Armed Forces Reserve Center with an organizational maintenance facility in Scranton, PA, if the Army is able to acquire suitable land for the construction of the facilities.”*

**Description of the Proposed Action.** To support the BRAC recommendations, the Proposed Action includes construction of an AFRC training building, Organizational Maintenance Shop (OMS), and an unheated storage building.

Future site improvements are expected to occupy approximately 25 acres. The Army would acquire up to 30 acres of land for construction of these facilities. The Army estimates that construction would begin in April 2009 and would be completed by April 2011.

The new AFRC would serve about 1,000 personnel on a rotating basis, mostly on weekends. The facility would employ approximately 42 permanent full-time personnel. The maximum expected use of the new facility would be about 680 members per weekend. The Army Reserve units to be relocated are: Det 1 858 MD CO; 220 MP DET; 412 EN CO (Vert); and PLT 2 233 QM CO. The Army National Guard units to be relocated are HQ 55; 55 BTB; MI-55; Sig-55; H(-)109; and B/228.

The new facilities included in the Proposed Action would allow for effective and efficient utilization of resources and personnel in support of the Army’s mission.

**Alternatives Considered.** Potential site locations for the AFRC and OMS were screened for inclusion in this EA. Screening criteria consisted of safety constraints, geographic and environmental constraints, and operational constraints. Based on the selection criteria, three alternatives, Alternative 1, Alternative 2, and the No Action Alternative, were developed for evaluation in this EA.

*Alternative 1.* Alternative 1 is to construct the AFRC and associated facilities south of I-81, off Rockwell Avenue, adjacent to the Career Technology Center of Lackawanna County.

*Alternative 2.* Alternative 2 is to construct the facilities at a site located adjacent to I-81 between Olyphant Avenue and Boulevard Avenue.

Both sites have been used for mining and special foundation measures would need to be taken to construct the AFRC at either site. The Army has selected, Alternative 2 as the Preferred Alternative.

*The No Action Alternative.* CEQ regulations implementing the provisions of NEPA require Federal agencies to consider a “No Action” alternative. These regulations define the No Action alternative as the continuation of existing conditions and their effects on the environment, without implementation of, or in lieu of, a proposed action. Because of the compulsory nature of the 2005 BRAC Commission’s recommendations, once Congress has allowed them to become law the Army may not select the No Action alternative with respect to the relocation of functions and personnel to a new AFRC in Scranton.

**Factors Considered in Determining that an Environmental Impact Statement is not Required.** No significant environmental impacts were identified in the EA (attached). Impacts were analyzed for land use, aesthetics and visual resources, air quality, noise, geology and soils, water resources, biological resources, cultural resources, socioeconomics, transportation, utilities, and hazardous and toxic substances. Likewise, the Proposed Action would not result in significant cumulative effects, as no past, present, or reasonably foreseeable actions that could combine with the Proposed Action were identified.

**Conclusion.** Based on the environmental impact analyses described in the EA, which is hereby incorporated into this FNSI, it has been determined that implementation of the Proposed Action would not have a significant impact on the quality of the natural or the human environment. Because no significant environmental impact would result from implementation of the Proposed Action, an environmental impact statement is not required and will not be prepared.

**Public Comment.** Persons wishing to comment may obtain a copy of the EA or inquire into this FNSI by calling Ms. Mona Garrett at (412) 604-8168 or emailing her at [mona.garrett@usar.army.mil](mailto:mona.garrett@usar.army.mil) within 30 days of the publication of this notice. A copy of the EA will also be posted for public review at the Albright Memorial Library, in Scranton, Pennsylvania and on the BRAC website at [http://www.hqda.army.mil/acsim/brac/env\\_ea\\_review.htm](http://www.hqda.army.mil/acsim/brac/env_ea_review.htm).

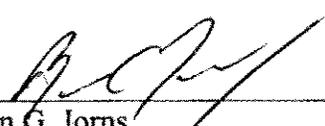
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**ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT  
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RECOMMENDATIONS AT  
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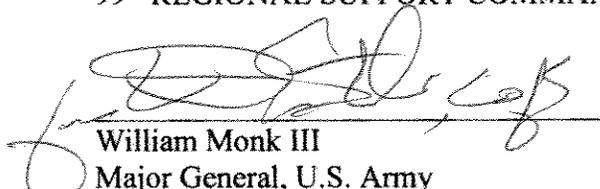
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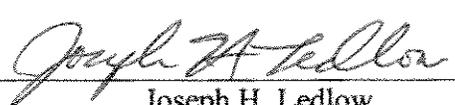
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Joseph H. Ledlow  
Colonel, US Army Reserve  
99<sup>th</sup> RSC Engineers

10 FEB 2009

Date

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## ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

**LEAD AGENCY:** Mobile District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

**TITLE OF PROPOSED ACTION:** Environmental Assessment for the Construction of an Armed Forces Reserve Center and Implementation of BRAC 05 Recommendations at Scranton, Pennsylvania

**AFFECTED JURISDICTIONS:** Scranton, Lackawanna County, Pennsylvania

**PREPARED BY:** AGEISS, Inc.

**APPROVED BY:** Colonel Joseph Ledlow, U.S. Army Reserve

**ABSTRACT:** The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is preparing environmental documentation for the proposed Armed Forces Reserve Center (AFRC) at Scranton, Pennsylvania as part of the restructuring of military bases recommended by the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Act (BRAC). This Environmental Assessment (EA) addresses the potential environmental, socioeconomic, and cultural impacts of this proposal and its alternatives. To implement BRAC recommendations, the U.S. Army proposes to construct a new AFRC and related facilities at a site in Scranton, Pennsylvania, to support the changes in force structure.

Based on the environmental impact analyses described in this EA it has been determined that implementation of the Proposed Action would not have a significant impact on the quality of the natural or the human environment and would not require mitigation to offset impacts. Because no significant environmental impact would result from implementation of the Proposed Action, an environmental impact statement is not required and a Finding of No Significant Impact (FNSI) will be published in accordance with NEPA.

**REVIEW PERIOD:** A Notice of Availability (NOA) will be published in *Scranton Times*, which will announce the beginning of the 30-day public review period. In the NOA, interested parties will be invited to review and comment on the EA and Draft FNSI, and will be informed of the fact that the EA and Draft FNSI will be available via the World Wide Web at [http://www.hqda.army.mil/acsim/brac/env\\_ea\\_review.htm](http://www.hqda.army.mil/acsim/brac/env_ea_review.htm) and at the Albright Memorial Library, 500 Vine Street, Scranton, Pennsylvania.

Reviewers will be invited to submit comments on the EA and Draft FNSI during the 30-day public comment period via mail, fax, or e-mail to the following:

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Corapolis, PA 15108  
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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

### ES.1 Introduction

This environmental assessment (EA) analyzes the potential environmental impacts associated with the U.S. Army's Proposed Action in Scranton, Pennsylvania. This action is to support the U.S. Army Reserve 99<sup>th</sup> Regional Support Command (RSC). To enable implementation of Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) recommendations, the Army proposes to provide necessary facilities to support the changes in force structure.

This EA was developed in accordance with the *National Environmental Policy Act* (NEPA) (42 U.S.C. § 4321 et seq.); implementing regulations issued by the President's Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ), 40 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Parts 1500-1508; and *Environmental Effects of Army Actions*, 32 CFR Part 651.

### ES.2 Background/Setting

The City of Scranton is the county seat of Lackawanna County in northeastern Pennsylvania. Interstates 81, 84, 476, and 380 all converge in the Scranton area. Scranton is the geographic and cultural center of the Lackawanna River Valley.

### ES.3 Proposed Action

To support the BRAC recommendations, the Proposed Action includes the construction and operation of a new Armed Forces Reserve Center (AFRC) in Scranton, Pennsylvania that would realign the Army Reserve and Army National Guard units, resulting from the closure of the Serrenti Memorial United States Army Reserve Center in Scranton, the Serrenti Memorial United States Army Reserve Organizational Maintenance Shop (OMS) in Scranton, and the United States Army Reserve Center in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania, as directed by BRAC 05. The Army Reserve units to be relocated are: Det 1 858 MD CO; 220 MP DET; 412 EN CO (Vert); and PLT 2 233 QM CO. The Army National Guard units to be relocated are HQ 55; 55 BTB; MI-55; Sig-55; H(-)109; and B/228. The new AFRC would be built to Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Silver standards. The AFRC would provide administrative, educational, assembly, library, learning center, vault, weapons simulator, and physical fitness areas for Army Reserve and Pennsylvania Army National Guard personnel. The OMS would provide work bays and maintenance administrative support. The Proposed Action would also provide unit maintenance training, unit storage, and parking space for military and privately-owned vehicles. The Army estimates that construction would begin in April 2009 and would be completed by April 2011.

The new AFRC would serve about 1,000 personnel on a rotating basis, mostly on weekends. The facility would employ approximately 42 permanent full-time personnel. The maximum expected use of the new facility would be about 680 members per weekend, and there would be parking for 544 privately-owned vehicles (taking into account those who would carpool or use public transportation).

## ES.4 Alternatives

Potential site locations for the AFRC and OMS were screened for inclusion in this EA. Screening criteria consisted of safety constraints, geographic and environmental constraints, and operational constraints. Based on the selection criteria, three alternatives, Alternative 1, Alternative 2, and the No Action Alternative, were developed for evaluation in this EA.

Alternative 1 is to construct the AFRC and associated facilities south of I-81, off Rockwell Avenue, adjacent to the Career Technology Center of Lackawanna County. Alternative 2 is to construct the facilities at a site located adjacent to I-81 between Olyphant Avenue and Boulevard Avenue. Both sites have been used for mining and special foundation measures would need to be taken to construct the AFRC at either site. A Preferred Alternative has not been selected.

The No Action Alternative is required to be carried forward by CEQ. Since the Proposed Action is being driven by Congress, the No Action Alternative is carried forward solely to serve as a benchmark against which to evaluate the Proposed Action.

## ES.5 Environmental Consequences

Twelve environmental and human resource areas were characterized and evaluated for potential impacts from Alternative 1, Alternative 2, and the No Action Alternative. Significance criteria were developed for the affected resource categories, and for many resource categories, are necessarily qualitative in nature. No potential impacts were classified as significant. Potential impacts of the Proposed Action identified for each resource area are summarized below. Impacts are the same for Alternative 1 and Alternative 2 unless otherwise noted. The new AFRC would be built to LEED Silver standards. The incorporation of green building design principles will help to reduce operational maintenance costs throughout the life of the installation and will provide a better quality of life for those personnel who work and train at the new AFRC complex.

**Land Use.** The Proposed Action would not conflict with land use plans or interfere with activities on adjacent properties. Access to the facilities would be through residential areas. Overall, impacts to land use would not be significant.

**Aesthetics and Visual Resources.** Implementation of the Proposed Action would cause short-term visual impacts resulting from ground disturbance and the presence of workers, vehicles, and equipment and the generation of dust and vehicle exhaust associated with construction of the proposed facilities. However, the reclamation of disturbed areas would remove these visual impacts. Long-term visual impacts would be beneficial with a modern and well-landscaped facility replacing areas disturbed by mining activity. Overall, impacts to aesthetics and visual resources would not be significant.

**Air Quality.** Short-term air quality impacts from the Proposed Action would occur from temporary and localized construction activities. Contaminants generated from construction would include particulate matter, vehicle emissions, and increased wind-borne dust (i.e. fugitive dust). Long-term impacts associated with the new AFRC and OMS are not likely to occur. No fueling facilities, underground storage tanks, or paint

booths would be required for these facilities. The vehicles associated with the use of these facilities by additional reservists would not be expected to result in significant impacts to air quality. Overall, potential impacts to air quality would not be significant.

**Noise.** Noise associated with the Proposed Action would be generated by standard construction equipment. Only a minor increase in ambient noise levels is expected to occur. Noise would also be generated by increased construction traffic on area roadways, but would be limited to certain times of the day.

Long-term noise impacts associated with the proposed AFRC and OMS include facility operations and the vehicles associated with these facilities, including organizational vehicles used for training and operations, government and private delivery vehicles, commuter shuttles or buses, and personal vehicles used for commuting purposes. Overall, the potential noise impacts from the Proposed Action would not be significant compared to existing ambient noise.

**Geology and Soils.** The Proposed Action would result in the long-term addition of approximately 11 acres of impervious surfaces. Erosion control during construction activities and new vegetation once the construction was completed would minimize erosion of topsoil.

As reported in the Management Summary of the Environmental Condition of Property Report, a discussion with Pennsylvania Bureau of Abandoned Mine Reclamation (BAMR) personnel revealed the following concerns for both the Vo-Tech and the Marvine Business Park sites:

- When the surface mines are backfilled, overburden and tailings from the mine as well as off-site materials are commonly used.
- Mining equipment or other materials are often buried in place.
- The fill material is not typically compacted.

This poses two concerns – the unknown nature of the fill material and the geotechnical aspect of subsidence (a common occurrence in northeastern Pennsylvania). Special foundation measures would need to be taken. These could include structural mat foundations and locating buildings outside of the “higher-risk” areas of the site where settlement is likely to occur. All state requirements for abandoned mine reclamation would be followed. Beneficial impacts would occur from reclamation.

Recorded seismic data for Lackawanna County indicate that there were only three seismic events in the area, all caused as a result of mining activities/events. There should not be any impact to the proposed structures from seismic events of the magnitudes recorded at Lackawanna County. Furthermore, the sites are located in an area with peak horizontal ground acceleration below the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection threshold that mandates incorporating specific seismic safety design features when constructing facilities. Overall, potential adverse impacts to geology and soils from the Proposed Action would not be significant.

**Water Resources.** There would be no measurable reduction in surface water quality or availability. By capping the subsoil with impervious surfaces, the Proposed Action would reduce groundwater recharge locally over the long term by reducing the infiltration of precipitation. This reduction of groundwater recharge would not have a significant impact on regional groundwater supplies.

Potential nonpoint storm water impacts would not be significant with implementation of best management practices described in a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP). The SWPPP would address site specific requirements and monitoring. Point discharges of wastewater are prohibited by existing National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System requirements under the Clean Water Act. Spills would be mitigated using procedures identified in the Spill Prevention Control and Countermeasures (SPCC) plan to reduce potential impacts to surface water or groundwater. Overall, potential impacts to water resources from the Proposed Action would not be significant.

**Biological Resources.** The AFRC and OMS would be built on land that has already been disturbed, so there would not be any loss of native vegetation. Construction of the AFRC and OMS may affect on-site wildlife through the long-term direct loss of a relatively small amount of habitat and direct mortality of individuals occurring in construction zones.

Post-construction impacts to wildlife from operation of the AFRC and OMS would not be significant. Species currently using the sites are accustomed to humans and their activity, and would return to the site once construction activity and noise had abated.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission, and the Pennsylvania Game Commission were consulted during development of the EA to ensure that no threatened or endangered species or species proposed for threatened or endangered listing are within the area that would be disturbed. Consultation letters are included in Appendix A.

No wetlands are located at either site. Overall, potential impacts to biological resources from the Proposed Action would not be significant.

**Cultural Resources.** Impacts to cultural resources are not expected since the proposed sites have already been disturbed. The Proposed Action would not affect any known National Register of Historic Places (NRHP)-eligible archaeological or historical sites, and no such sites occur in the area of potential effect.

A Phase I cultural resources survey of both sites was conducted. There are no known archaeological sites located at either site. If, during construction, any potential historic or archaeological resource is uncovered or inadvertent discoveries are made of Native American human remains and associated funerary objects, sacred objects, or objects of cultural patrimony, the Cultural Resources Manager for the 99<sup>th</sup> RSC would be contacted, in accordance with typical standard operating procedure for the accidental discovery of archaeological resources or Native American artifacts.

Section 106 consultation and coordination has been initiated with the State Historic Preservation Office via the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission. Consultation letters are included in Appendix A. No Native American concerns regarding the Proposed Action have been identified. Notification letters sent to 14 federally recognized tribes regarding the Proposed Action are included in Appendix A. Overall, potential impacts to cultural resources from the Proposed Action would not be significant.

**Socioeconomics.** The Proposed Action would cause a short-term minor beneficial increase in local socioeconomic resources as there would be creation of construction jobs and increased use of hotels and businesses surrounding the site. Since incoming personnel under the Proposed Action would be coming from existing facilities in Scranton and Wilkes-Barre, there would be no influx of personnel on a permanent basis into the region of influence. Most personnel would be at the AFRC only on weekends, with the exception of approximately 42 permanent administrative personnel. Overall, potential socioeconomic impacts from the Proposed Action would include beneficial short-term and long-term impacts. Additionally, there would be no environmental justice impacts, as impacts from the Proposed Action identified in this EA would not be localized or placed primarily on minority and/or low-income populations.

**Transportation.** During construction of Alternative 1, a temporary increase in vehicular traffic through the residential areas located on the route between Exit 190 of I-81 and the site on Rockwell Avenue is expected. Site preparation would require the movement of heavy trucks and equipment through the residential areas. After the completion of construction, the number of private vehicles using the residential roads to access the AFRC would increase. The facility would employ approximately 42 permanent full-time personnel. The maximum expected use of the new facility would be about 680 members per weekend, and there would be parking for 544 privately-owned vehicles (taking into account those who would carpool or use public transportation). This would result in increased daily traffic volume of approximately 500 percent, especially on weekends. Most of the long-term impacts would be experienced on Rockwell Avenue, which has a 2006 Annual Average Daily Traffic (AADT) volume of only 100. Currently, the Rockwell Avenue Bridge which crosses I-81 is closed on the eastern side of the highway. Under this Alternative, the bridge may be reopened to provide easy access to the site. This could lessen long-term impacts by reducing the amount of traffic which flows through the residential areas around the site.

Transportation impacts during construction of Alternative 2 would be as described for Alternative 1 but through the residential areas located on the route between Exit 190 of I-81 and the site on Boulevard Avenue. After the completion of construction, the same number of personnel as Alternative 1 would use the AFRC but would cause fewer long-term impacts due to the existing higher traffic volumes. The maximum training weekend would cause an increase of about 15 percent in AADT volumes during weekends on Parker Street and Boulevard Avenue, which would result in occasional slight long-term impacts. A Highway Occupancy Permit (driveway permit) would probably be required upon development of the site.

**Utilities.** The Proposed Action is not expected to reduce potable water availability, disrupt potable water distribution systems, or change significantly the water demands that affect regional potable water quality or supplies. Nor is it expected to cause additional inflow and infiltration and increased loads on wastewater treatment or change the wastewater composition. Short-term obstruction to flow in the adjacent storm water conveyance systems may occur but only during the construction phase. Electric service, natural gas lines, and communication lines would have to be extended to the site from nearby connection points. The Proposed Action would generate solid waste during the construction phase and during the operational phase of the AFRC. However, the increase is not expected to be significant to overwhelm local landfills. Overall, potential impacts to utilities would not be significant.

**Hazardous and Toxic Substances.** Quantities of hazardous materials appropriate for facility and vehicle maintenance would be stored and used at the property. Hazardous materials stored and used at the site would be handled, managed, treated, or stored properly by trained personnel under Occupational Safety and Health Administration and Department of Transportation regulations.

Small quantities of hazardous wastes would be generated primarily from vehicle maintenance activities, such as parts degreasing. The facility may be considered a conditionally exempt small quantity generator. If that occurs, the Army would be required to apply for a U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Identification Number. Disposal would be by commercial vendor. An SPCC Plan would be prepared as the facility is constructed. Procedures in this plan would be followed to properly manage spills. Overall, potential impacts to hazardous and toxic substances management would not be significant.

**Cumulative Impacts.** Cumulative effects are those environmental impacts that result from the incremental effects of other past, present, or reasonably foreseeable future actions when combined with the Proposed Action. No past, present, or reasonably foreseeable actions within or adjacent to the proposed project areas have been identified. Therefore, no cumulative effects would occur.

## **ES.6 Mitigation Responsibility**

No mitigation measures are required for the Proposed Action discussed in this EA because resulting impacts are not significant.

## **ES.7 Findings and Conclusions**

As analyzed and discussed in this EA, direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts of the Proposed Action and the No Action Alternative have been considered, and no significant impacts have been identified. Therefore, issuance of a Finding of No Significant Impact is warranted, and preparation of an environmental impact statement is not required. Either alternative would allow the Army to efficiently provide administrative, educational, assembly, library, learning center, vault, weapons simulator, and physical fitness areas for Army Reserve and Pennsylvania Army National Guard personnel. Increased weekend traffic would be less disruptive under Alternative 2.

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**LIST OF ACRONYMS**

$\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$	micrograms per cubic meter
AADT	Annual Average Daily Traffic
AFRC	Armed Forces Reserve Center
AIRFA	American Indian Religious Freedom Act
APE	Area of Potential Effect
AQCR	Air Quality Control Region
ARPA	Archaeological Resources Protection Act
ATFP	Anti-terrorism/Force Protection
BAMR	Bureau of Abandoned Mine Reclamation
BMP	best management practice
BP	before present
BRAC	Base Realignment and Closure
ca	circa (about or approximately)
CAA	Clean Air Act
CERCLA	Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act
CEQ	Council on Environmental Quality
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
CO	carbon monoxide
COLTS	County of Lackawanna Transit System
CWA	Clean Water Act
dB	decibel(s)
dBA	A-weighted decibel(s)
DoD	U.S. Department of Defense
EA	environmental assessment
ECM	erosion control measure
EIFS	Economic Impact Forecast System
EO	Executive Order
EPA	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
ESA	Endangered Species Act
FNSI	Finding of No Significant Impact
g	acceleration due to gravity
HMMWV	high mobility multi-purpose wheeled vehicle
HVAC	heating, ventilation, and air conditioning
LEED	Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design
MSL	mean sea level
NAAQS	National Ambient Air Quality Standards
NAGPRA	Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
NHPA	National Historic Preservation Act
NO <sub>2</sub>	nitrogen dioxide
NO <sub>x</sub>	nitrogen oxides
NPDES	National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System
NRHP	National Register of Historic Places

**LIST OF ACRONYMS (continued)**

O <sub>3</sub>	ozone
OMS	Organizational Maintenance Shop
OSHA	Occupational Safety and Health Administration
Pb	lead
PDEP	Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection
PHGA	peak horizontal ground acceleration
PHMC	Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission
PM <sub>10</sub>	particulate matter with an aerodynamic size less than or equal to 10 microns
PM <sub>2.5</sub>	particulate matter with an aerodynamic size less than or equal to 2.5 microns
ppm	parts per million
PSD	Prevention of Significant Deterioration
RCRA	Resource Conservation and Recovery Act
ROI	region of influence
RRC	Regional Readiness Command
RSC	Regional Support Command
RTV	rational threshold value
SO <sub>2</sub>	sulfur dioxide
SPCC	Spill Prevention Control and Countermeasures
SWPPP	Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan
tpy	tons per year
TSCA	Toxic Substance Control Act
USACE	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

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## **1.0 PURPOSE, NEED AND SCOPE**

### **1.1 Introduction**

On September 8, 2005, the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission (BRAC Commission) recommended that certain realignment actions occur in Scranton, Pennsylvania. These recommendations were approved by the President on September 23, 2005, and forwarded to Congress. The Congress did not alter any of the BRAC Commission's recommendations, and on November 9, 2005, the recommendations became law. The BRAC Commission recommendations must now be implemented as provided for in the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Act of 1990 (Public Law 101-510), as amended. This environmental assessment (EA) analyzes the potential environmental impacts associated with the U.S. Army's Proposed Action in Scranton, Pennsylvania.

The BRAC Commission made the following recommendations concerning Scranton, Pennsylvania:

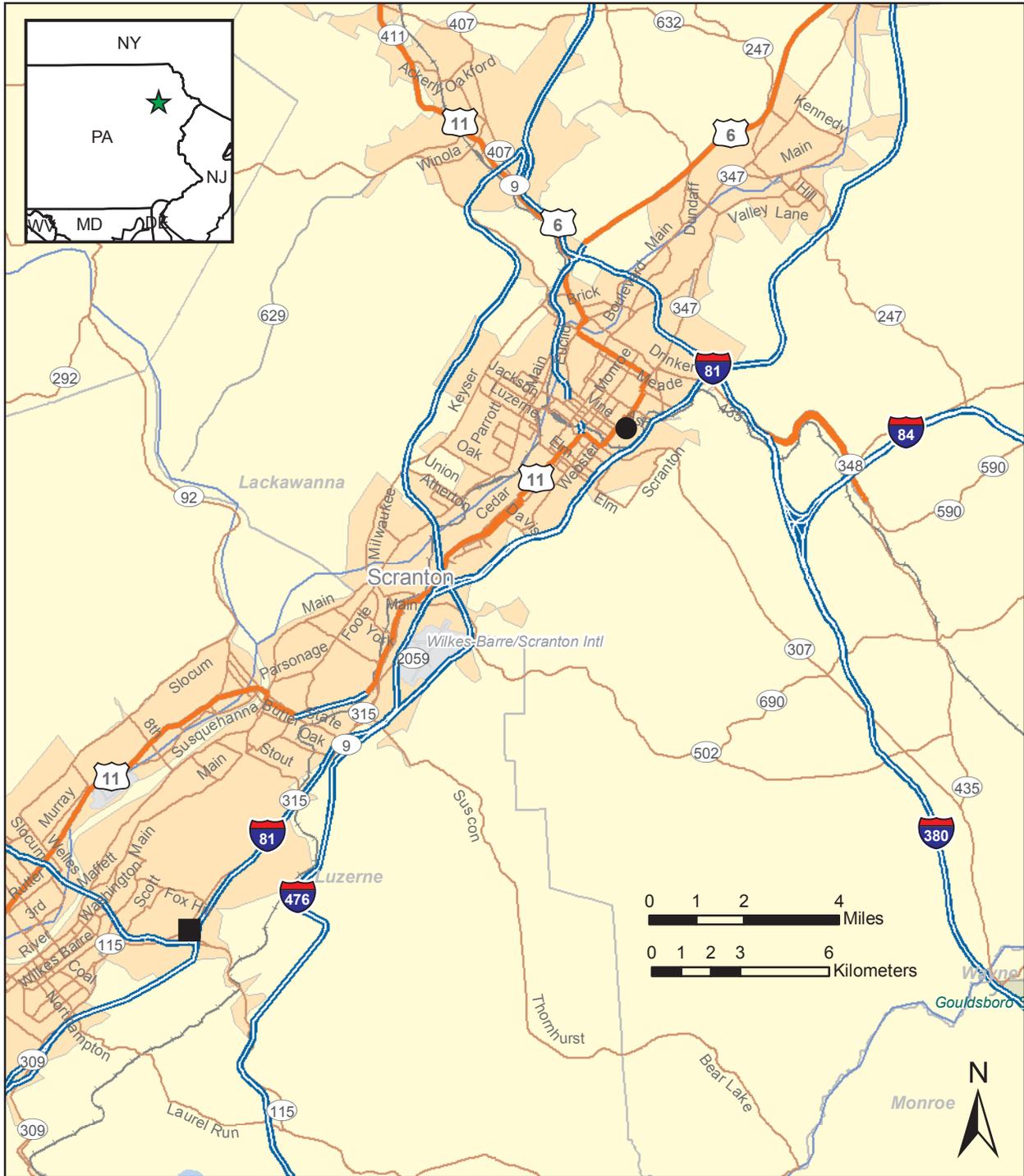
*“Close the Serrenti Memorial United States Army Reserve Center in Scranton, PA, the Serrenti Memorial United States Army Reserve Organizational Maintenance Shop in Scranton, PA, the United States Army Reserve Center in Wilkes-Barre, PA, and relocate units to a new Armed Forces Reserve Center with an organizational maintenance facility in Scranton, PA, if the Army is able to acquire suitable land for the construction of the facilities.”*

To implement these recommendations, the U.S. Army proposes to construct a new Armed Forces Reserve Center (AFRC) and related facilities at a site in Scranton, Pennsylvania, to support the changes in force structure. Figure 1-1 shows the location of Scranton, Pennsylvania. Details on the Proposed Action are provided in Section 2.0.

### **1.2 Purpose and Need**

The purpose of the Proposed Action is to provide for a new AFRC in Scranton, Pennsylvania as directed by the BRAC Commission's recommendations. The AFRC is needed to ensure that adequate training and administrative space is available to support reserve units realigned from area facilities.

The need for the Proposed Action is to improve the ability of the Nation to respond rapidly to challenges of the 21st century. The Army's mission is to defend the United States and its territories, support national policies and objectives, and defeat nations and other parties responsible for aggression that endangers the peace and security of the United States. To carry out these tasks, the Army must adapt to changing world conditions and must improve its capabilities to respond to a variety of circumstances across the full spectrum of military operations.



- Location of Serrenti Memorial United States Army Reserve Center  
- The Serrenti Memorial USAR OMS is at the same location
- Location of existing United States Army Reserve Center facility in Wilkes Barre, PA

USAR - United States Army Reserve  
OMS - Organizational Maintenance Shop

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U.S Army Corps of Engineers, Mobile District

Figure 1-1  
Scranton, Pennsylvania Location Map



The following paragraphs discuss the major initiatives that contribute to the Army's need for the Proposed Action in Scranton, Pennsylvania.

***Base Realignment and Closure.*** In previous rounds of BRAC, the explicit goal was to save money and downsize the military to reap a "peace dividend." In the 2005 BRAC round, the U.S. Department of Defense (DoD) sought to reorganize its installation infrastructure to most efficiently support its forces, increase operational readiness and facilitate new ways of doing business. Thus, BRAC represents more than cost savings. It supports advancing the goals of transformation, improving military capabilities, and enhancing military value. The Army needs to carry out the BRAC recommendations in Scranton, Pennsylvania to achieve the objectives for which Congress established the BRAC process.

***Installation Sustainability.*** On October 1, 2004, the Secretary of the Army and the Chief of Staff issued *The Army Strategy for the Environment*. The strategy focuses on the interrelationships of mission, environment, and community. A sustainable installation simultaneously meets current and future mission requirements, safeguards human health, improves quality of life, and enhances the natural environment. A sustained natural environment is necessary to allow the Army to train and maintain military readiness. In keeping with this strategy, all new construction projects pursued by the Army are designed to meet the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Silver design standards. The incorporation of green building design principles will help to reduce operational maintenance costs throughout the life of the installation and will provide a better quality of life for those personnel who work and train at the new AFRC complex.

### 1.3 Scope

This EA was developed in accordance with the *National Environmental Policy Act* (NEPA) (42 U.S.C. § 4321 et seq.); implementing regulations issued by the President's Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ), 40 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Parts 1500-1508; and *Environmental Effects of Army Actions*, 32 CFR Part 651. Its purpose is to inform decision makers and the public of the likely environmental consequences of the Proposed Action and alternatives.

This EA identifies, documents, and evaluates environmental effects of the proposed realignment in Scranton, Pennsylvania. An interdisciplinary team of environmental scientists, biologists, planners, economists, engineers, archaeologists, historians, and military technicians analyzed the Proposed Action and alternatives in light of existing conditions and identified relevant beneficial and adverse effects associated with the actions. The Proposed Action is described in Section 2.0 and the alternatives are described in Section 3.0. Conditions considered to be the "environmental baseline" conditions are described in Section 4.0, Affected Environment and Consequences. The expected effects of the Proposed Action, also described in Section 4.0, are presented immediately following the description of the environmental baseline conditions for each resource addressed in the EA. Section 4.0 also addresses the potential for cumulative effects, and mitigation measures are identified where appropriate. Section 5.0 provides

conclusions summarizing the magnitude of expected effects and identifies the environmentally preferred alternative. The list of preparers of this EA is presented in Section 6.0, the document distribution list is presented in Section 7.0, and references cited in this document are provided in Section 8.0.

The Defense Base Closure and Realignment Act of 1990 specifies that NEPA does not apply to actions of the President, the BRAC Commission, or the DoD, except “(i) during the process of property disposal, and (ii) during the process of relocating functions from a military installation being closed or realigned to another military installation after the receiving installation has been selected but before the functions are relocated (Sec. 2905(c)(2)(A), Public Law 101-510, as amended).” The law further specifies that in applying the provisions of NEPA to the process, the Secretary of Defense and the secretaries of the military departments concerned do not have to consider “(i) the need for closing or realigning the military installation which has been recommended for closure or realignment by the Commission, (ii) the need for transferring functions to any military installation which has been selected as the receiving installation, or (iii) military installations alternative to those recommended or selected (Sec. 2905(c)(2)(B)).” The Commission’s deliberation and decision, as well as the need for closing or realigning a military installation, are exempt from NEPA. Accordingly, this EA does not address the need for realignment.

The decision to be made is how the Army will implement the BRAC recommendations in Scranton, Pennsylvania, and, as appropriate, carry out mitigation measures that would reduce effects on resources. The decision on how to implement the realignment will be based on strategic, operational, environmental, and other considerations, including the results of this analysis.

## **1.4 Public Involvement**

The Army invites public participation in the NEPA process. Consideration of the views and information of all interested persons promotes open communication and enables better decision-making. All agencies, organizations, and members of the public having a potential interest in the Proposed Action, including minority, low-income, disadvantaged, and Native American groups, are urged to participate in the decision-making process.

Public participation opportunities with respect to this EA and decision-making on the Proposed Action are guided by 32 CFR Part 651.14. Upon completion of this EA, the Notice of Availability was published in a local newspaper, *Scranton Times*. At that point, the EA is made available to the public for 30 days, along with a draft Finding of No Significant Impact (FNSI) at the Albright Memorial Library, in Scranton, Pennsylvania and on the BRAC website at [http://www.hqda.army.mil/acsim/brac/env\\_ea\\_review.htm](http://www.hqda.army.mil/acsim/brac/env_ea_review.htm). At the end of the 30-day public review period, the Army will consider all comments submitted by individuals, agencies, or organizations on the Proposed Action, the EA, and draft FNSI. As appropriate, the Army may then execute the FNSI and proceed with implementation of the Proposed Action. If it is determined prior to issuance of a final FNSI that implementation of the Proposed Action would result in significant impacts, the Army will publish in the *Federal Register* a notice of intent to prepare an environmental

impact statement, commit to mitigation actions sufficient to reduce impacts below significance levels, or not take the action.

The public may obtain information on the status and progress of the Proposed Action and the EA through the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers by contacting Mona Garrett at (412) 604-8168 or [Mona.Garrett@usar.army.mil](mailto:Mona.Garrett@usar.army.mil).

## 1.5 Regulatory Framework

A decision on whether to proceed with the Proposed Action rests on numerous factors such as mission requirements, schedule, availability of funding, and environmental considerations. In addressing environmental considerations, the Army is guided by relevant statutes (and their implementing regulations) and Executive Orders (EOs) that establish standards and provide guidance on environmental and natural resources management and planning. These include the Clean Air Act (CAA), Clean Water Act (CWA), Noise Control Act, Endangered Species Act (ESA), National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), Archaeological Resources Protection Act (ARPA), Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA), American Indian Religious Freedom Act (AIRFA), Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA), Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA), and Toxic Substance Control Act (TSCA). EOs bearing on the Proposed Action include EO 11988 (*Floodplain Management*), EO 11990 (*Protection of Wetlands*), EO 12088 (*Federal Compliance with Pollution Control Standards*), EO 12580 (*Superfund Implementation*), EO 12898 (*Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations*), EO 13045 (*Protection of Children from Environmental Health Risks and Safety Risks*), EO 13101 (*Greening the Government Through Waste Prevention, Recycling, and Federal Acquisition*), EO 13123 (*Greening the Government Through Efficient Energy Management*), EO 13148 (*Greening the Government Through Leadership in Environmental Management*), EO 13175 (*Consultation and Coordination with Indian Tribal Governments*), and EO 13186 (*Responsibilities of Federal Agencies to Protect Migratory Birds*). These authorities are addressed in various sections throughout this EA when relevant to particular environmental resources and conditions. The full texts of the laws, regulations, and EOs are available on the Defense Environmental Network & Information Exchange web site at <https://www.denix.osd.mil>. To the extent that state or local laws, regulations or other applicable guidance is directly relevant, those issues are identified in the narrative portion of this EA.

## **2.0 PROPOSED ACTION**

### **2.1 Introduction**

This section describes the Army's Proposed Action for carrying out the BRAC Commission's recommendations. The Proposed Action includes land acquisition, construction, and future use of an AFRC. The details of the facilities and operations, equipment, and personnel for the Proposed Action are described below.

### **2.2 Facilities and Operations**

The Proposed Action includes the construction and operation of the following facilities:

- 117,832-square-foot AFRC training building
- 7,423-square-foot Organizational Maintenance Shop (OMS)
- 4,500-square-foot unheated storage building

Future site improvements are expected to occupy approximately 25 acres. The Army would acquire up to 30 acres of land for construction of these facilities. The Army estimates that construction would begin in April 2009 and would be completed by April 2011.

The AFRC would provide administrative, educational, assembly, library, learning center, vault, weapons simulator, and physical fitness areas for Army Reserve and Pennsylvania Army National Guard personnel. The Army Reserve units to be housed at the new AFRC are: Det 1 858 MD CO; 220 MP DET; 412 EN CO (Vert); and PLT 2 233 QM CO. The Army National Guard units to be housed at the new AFRC are HQ 55; 55 BTB; MI-55; Sig-55; H(-)109; and B/228. The OMS would provide work bays and maintenance administrative support. The Proposed Action would also provide 6 acres of parking for military and privately-owned vehicles and 884 square yards of walkways.

Activities at the AFRC would be training-related, with no weapons firing. There would be no firing range or weapons qualification testing or training. On training weekends, reservists would either commute to the AFRC or stay in local hotels. Activities at the OMS would include routine maintenance (e.g., oil change, tire rotation, etc.) or other vehicle repair as required. Occasionally, vehicles from neighboring Reserve Centers that do not have an OMS could be brought to the new OMS for maintenance and/or certain types of repair.

The facilities, designed with sustainability features to achieve the LEED Silver standard, would be permanent construction with reinforced concrete foundations; concrete floor slabs; structural steel frames; masonry veneer walls; standing seam metal roofs; heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) systems; and plumbing, mechanical, electrical, and security systems.

Supporting improvements are also proposed to compliment the facilities, including grading, clearing and landscaping, extension of utility services, security fencing, security

gates, and general site improvements. Anti-terrorism/Force Protection (ATFP) safety and security regulations would be incorporated into the facility designs and siting.

### **2.3 Equipment**

A maximum of approximately 259 vehicles including high mobility multi-purpose wheeled vehicles (HMMWVs or Humvees), semi tractors, and commercial cars and trucks are anticipated as a result of the realignment of Army Reserve and Army National Guard units to the new AFRC. In addition, a maximum of approximately 140 flat bed, cargo, and specialty trailers are also anticipated. The military vehicles and equipment kept on-site would generally be parked empty or loaded with equipment relevant for training. Occasionally, some of these vehicles could be staged and then moved as a convoy for off-site training.

### **2.4 Personnel**

The new AFRC would serve about 1,000 personnel on a rotating basis, mostly on weekends. The new facility would realign the Army Reserve and Army National Guard units, resulting from the closure of the Serrenti Memorial United States Army Reserve Center in Scranton, Pennsylvania, the Serrenti Memorial United States Army Reserve Organizational Maintenance Shop in Scranton, Pennsylvania, and the United States Army Reserve Center in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania, as directed by BRAC 05. The facility would employ approximately 42 permanent full-time personnel. The maximum expected use of the new facility would be about 680 members per weekend, and there would be parking for 544 privately-owned vehicles (taking into account those who would carpool or use public transportation).

## 3.0 ALTERNATIVES

### 3.1 Introduction

A bedrock principle of NEPA is that an agency should consider reasonable alternatives to a proposed action. Considering alternatives helps to avoid unnecessary impacts and allows analysis of reasonable ways to achieve the stated purpose. To warrant detailed evaluation, an alternative must be reasonable. To be considered reasonable, an alternative must be “ripe” for decision making (any necessary preceding events having taken place), viable, capable of implementation, and satisfactory with respect to meeting the purpose of and need for the action.

This section discusses all alternatives considered feasible, including all site locations, facilities, and the No Action Alternative. To support and sustain its current and future mission, the 99<sup>th</sup> Regional Support Command (RSC) has programmed the construction of new facilities, including structures, roads, and parking lots. The 99<sup>th</sup> RSC was activated on October 1, 2008 to take over functional command from the 77<sup>th</sup> Regional Readiness Command (RRC), 94<sup>th</sup> RRC, and 99<sup>th</sup> RRC.

### 3.2 Development of Alternatives

***Means to Accommodate Realigned Units.*** Relocation of units and establishment of new units involves ensuring that the installation has adequate physical accommodations for personnel and their operational requirements. The Army considers four means of meeting increased space requirements.

- Use of existing facilities
- Modernization or renovation of existing facilities
- Leasing of off-post facilities
- Construction of new facilities

Army Regulation 210-20, *Master Planning for Army Installations*, establishes Army policy to maximize use of existing facilities. The regulation directs that new construction will not be authorized to meet a mission that can be supported by existing underutilized adequate facilities, provided that the use of such facilities does not degrade operational efficiency. Under this policy, selection and use of facilities to support mission requirements adheres to the foregoing four choices in the order in which they are listed. That is, if there are adequate existing facilities to accommodate requirements, and absent other overriding considerations, further examination of renovation, leasing, or construction alternatives is not required. Similarly, if a combination of use of existing facilities and renovation satisfies the Army’s needs, leasing or new construction need not be addressed. New construction may proceed only when use of existing facilities, renovation, leasing, or a combination of such measures are inadequate to meet mission requirements.

***Siting of New Construction.*** The Army considers new construction of facilities when use of existing facilities, renovation, or leasing would fail to provide for adequate accommodations of realigned functions. The Army considers both general and specific siting criteria for construction of new facilities.

General siting criteria include consideration of compatibility between the functions to be performed and the land use designation for the site, adequacy of the site for the function required, proximity to related activities, distance from incompatible activities, availability and capacity of roads, efficient use of property, development density, potential future mission requirements, and special site characteristics, including environmental incompatibilities.

Specific siting criteria include consideration of location of the workforce and efficient, streamlined management of functions. Collocation of similar types of functions, as opposed to dispersion, permits more efficient use of equipment, vehicle, and other assets.

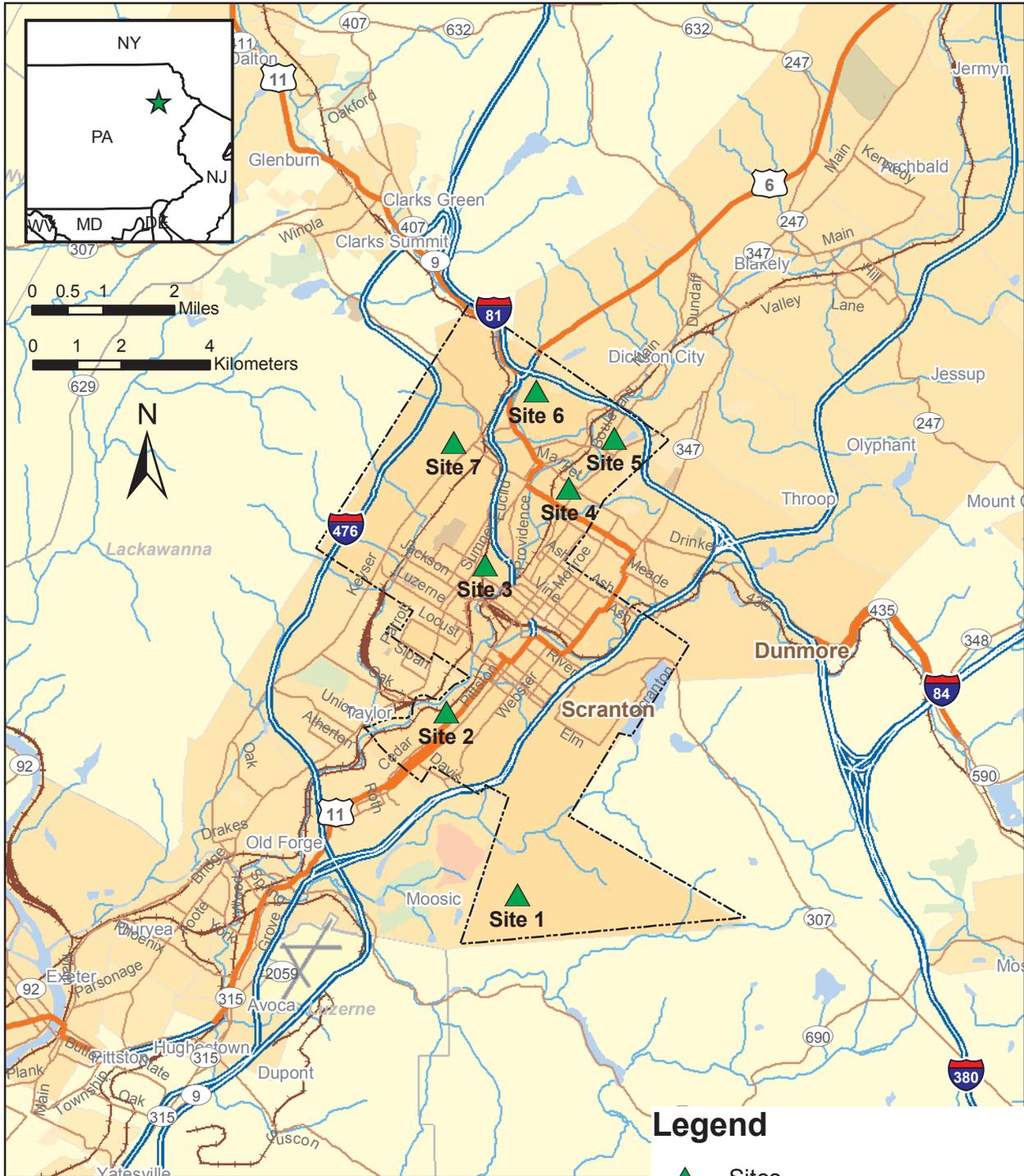
***Schedule.*** Alternatives for scheduling of proposed realignment actions are principally affected by three factors: the availability of facilities to house realigned personnel and functions, efforts to minimize potential disruption of mission activities based on the number of personnel involved in the relocation or the amount of work to be performed, and early realization of benefits to be gained by completion of the realignments. In most cases, minor shifts in schedule would not produce different environmental results.

### **3.3 Alternatives Considered**

Potential site locations for the AFRC and related facilities were screened for inclusion in this EA. Screening criteria consists of safety constraints, geographic and environmental constraints, and operational constraints. Reuse of existing facilities is not feasible, because there are no existing facilities available that could adequately house or support the Proposed Action. Renovation or expansion of existing facilities at Serrenti Memorial or Wilkes-Barre United States Army Reserve Centers is not considered feasible due to necessity of significant upgrades and non-functional layout of current facilities. Leasing of off-site facilities is also not feasible, because no appropriate facilities currently exist in the Scranton area that are capable of meeting the purpose and need for the Proposed Action.

The Army screened six locations in Scranton, Pennsylvania shown on Figure 3-1. Initially, seven locations were identified in the Available Site Identification and Validation Report, an internal real estate planning document prepared by the Baltimore District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). The Site Survey Team rejected one site (Site 3) prior to site visits because it did not meet size and configuration requirements. The following describes the constraints considered in the evaluation process for the locations.

- **Safety Constraints** – Engineering and operational safety, vehicle traffic and circulation patterns including access roads



**Legend**

▲ Sites

▭ Scranton Designated Search Area

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 U.S Army Corps of Engineers, Mobile District

Figure 3-1

Sites Screened for Inclusion in this Environmental Assessment



- **Geographic and Environmental Constraints** – Availability of sufficient land area and configuration for anticipated footprint of at least 25 acres, access, security requirements, existence of environmentally sensitive areas within the anticipated footprint, minimum width required for ATFP requirements
- **Operational Constraints** – Infrastructure demand (water, electricity, and other needs), compatibility with neighborhood, demolition costs (estimated costs to demolish any existing improvements)

Table 3-1 summarizes the selection criteria as applied to each location considered. Based on the selection criteria, three alternatives, Alternative 1 (Site 6), Alternative 2 (Site 5), and the No Action Alternative, were developed for evaluation in this EA. Figure 3-2 shows the locations of Alternative 1 and Alternative 2. Details of these alternatives are described in Section 3.4. A Preferred Alternative has not been selected. The No Action Alternative is required to be carried forward by CEQ. Since the Proposed Action is being driven by Congress, the No Action Alternative is carried forward solely to serve as a benchmark against which to evaluate the Proposed Action. Section 3.5 discusses the sites that were eliminated from further consideration and the reasons for elimination.

### **3.4 Alternatives Carried Forward**

#### **3.4.1 ALTERNATIVE 1**

Alternative 1 is to construct the AFRC and associated facilities at the location shown on Figure 3-2 and summarized on Table 3-1 as Site 6. This site is called the Vo-Tech Site in this EA. The Vo-Tech Site consists of approximately 54 acres partially owned by the Lackawanna School District. It is located off Rockwell Avenue, adjacent to the Career Technology Center of Lackawanna County (formerly the Lackawanna County South Vocational-Technical School).

The Vo-Tech Site is a former strip mine and sits on 12 levels of mining. The surface was then strip-mined and backfilled with random, unconsolidated material. There is no active use of the site. The site is partially wooded. It has been determined that this is a buildable site, although special foundation measures would need to be taken. These could include structural mat foundations and locating buildings outside of the “higher-risk” areas of the site where settlement is likely to occur. The Vo-Tech Site would require more grading and site preparation due to topography.

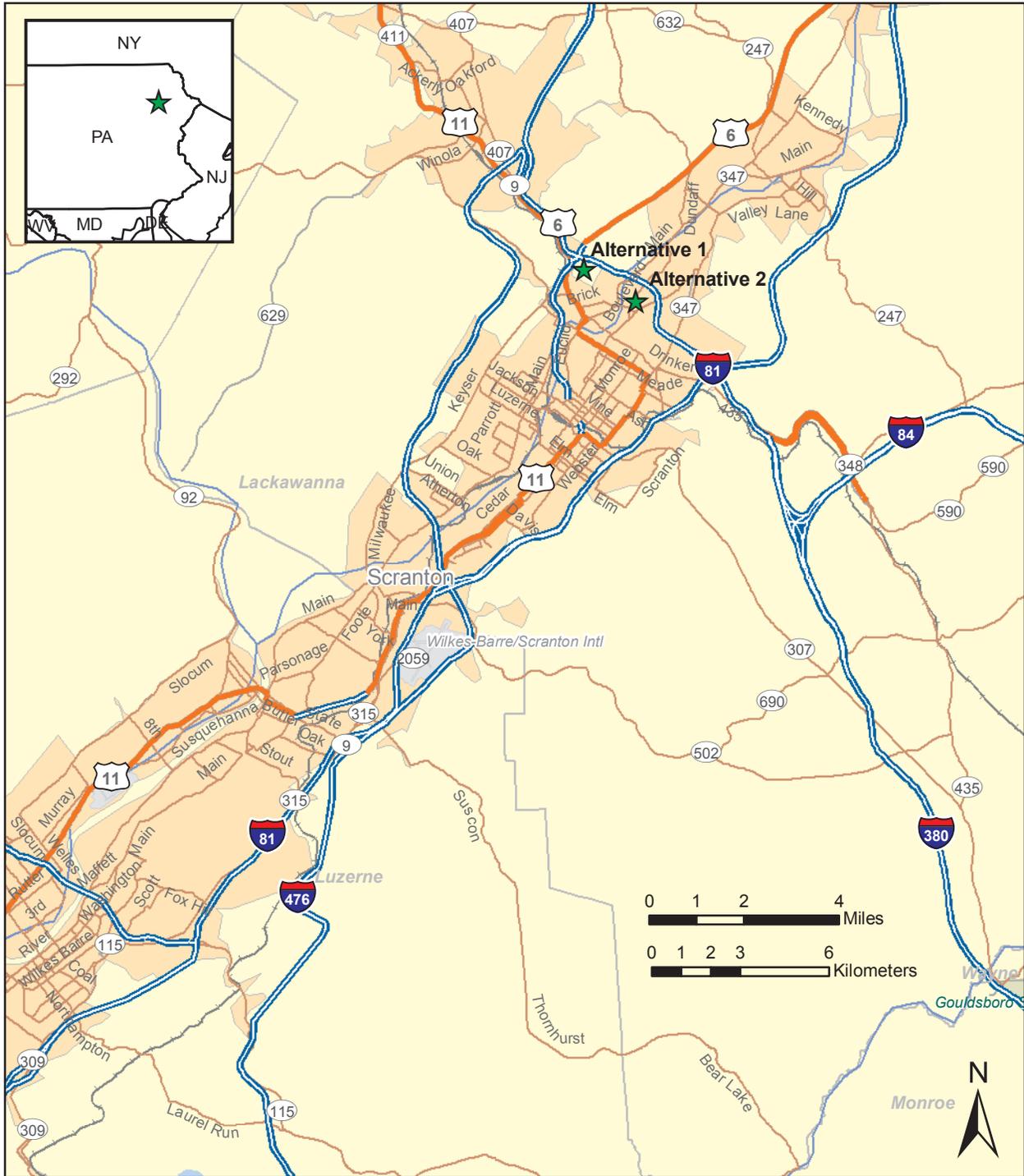
Access to the site is through a residential area. It is within 1 mile of I-81 exit 190. The site provides excellent ATFP setbacks while still providing good visibility. Utilities are easily accessible from surrounding streets. Figure 3-2 shows an aerial photograph of the Vo-Tech Site. Figure 3-3 shows the preliminary site layout of the proposed facilities.

**Table 3-1.** Selection Criteria for Each Site.

Site	Location Description	Safety Constraints	Geographic and Environmental Constraints	Operational Constraints	Carried Forward to EA or Not Carried Forward
1	Extreme southern section of the City of Scranton	Access via highly traveled two lane road that accesses the ski area in winter and baseball park in spring/summer	Extensive site preparation due to hilly, rocky condition and exposed granite	Utilities would need to be extended to the site but are available nearby	Not Carried Forward
2	Industrial complex at 1900 S. Washington Avenue	Anti-terrorism/Force Protection issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bordered by river, railroad, and roadways</li> <li>Possible environmental issues</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Demolition of buildings required</li> <li>Limited visibility</li> </ul>	Not Carried Forward
3	Mount Pleasant Corporate Center, between 7 <sup>th</sup> Avenue, West Linden Street and Pennsylvania Route 307	Access via 7 <sup>th</sup> Avenue	Too small, only 13 acres	Utilities would be available, once development is complete	Not Carried Forward
4	Liberty Commons at Dickson Ave. and Electric Street	Access through town, approximately 2.5 miles	Too small, only 14.4 acres	Extensive demolition of buildings required	Not Carried Forward
5	Marvine Properties Business Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Access through residential area</li> <li>Requires special foundation measures and locating building outside of the areas on the site where greater settlement is likely to occur</li> </ul>	None	Utilities are available to the site however no infrastructure other than storm sewer and fire hydrants are in place at this time	Carried Forward in EA
6	Rockwell Avenue, adjacent to the Career Technology Center of Lackawanna County	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Access through residential area</li> <li>Requires special foundation measures and locating building outside of the areas on the site where greater settlement is likely to occur</li> </ul>	Rugged topography, requiring extensive site preparation and grading	Utilities would need to be extended from nearby connection points	Carried Forward in EA

<b>Site</b>	<b>Location Description</b>	<b>Safety Constraints</b>	<b>Geographic and Environmental Constraints</b>	<b>Operational Constraints</b>	<b>Carried Forward to EA or Not Carried Forward</b>
7	East-northeast of the intersection of N. Keyser Ave. and Ferdinand Street	Extremely poor site access	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wooded site, bordered by residential areas</li> <li>• Generally sloped with a few level areas</li> <li>• High site preparation cost</li> </ul>	Utilities would need to be extended to the site	Not Carried Forward

NOTE: Site 3 was eliminated before the site surveys because it did not meet size and configuration requirements.



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 U.S Army Corps of Engineers, Mobile District

Figure 3-2  
 Location of Proposed Sites



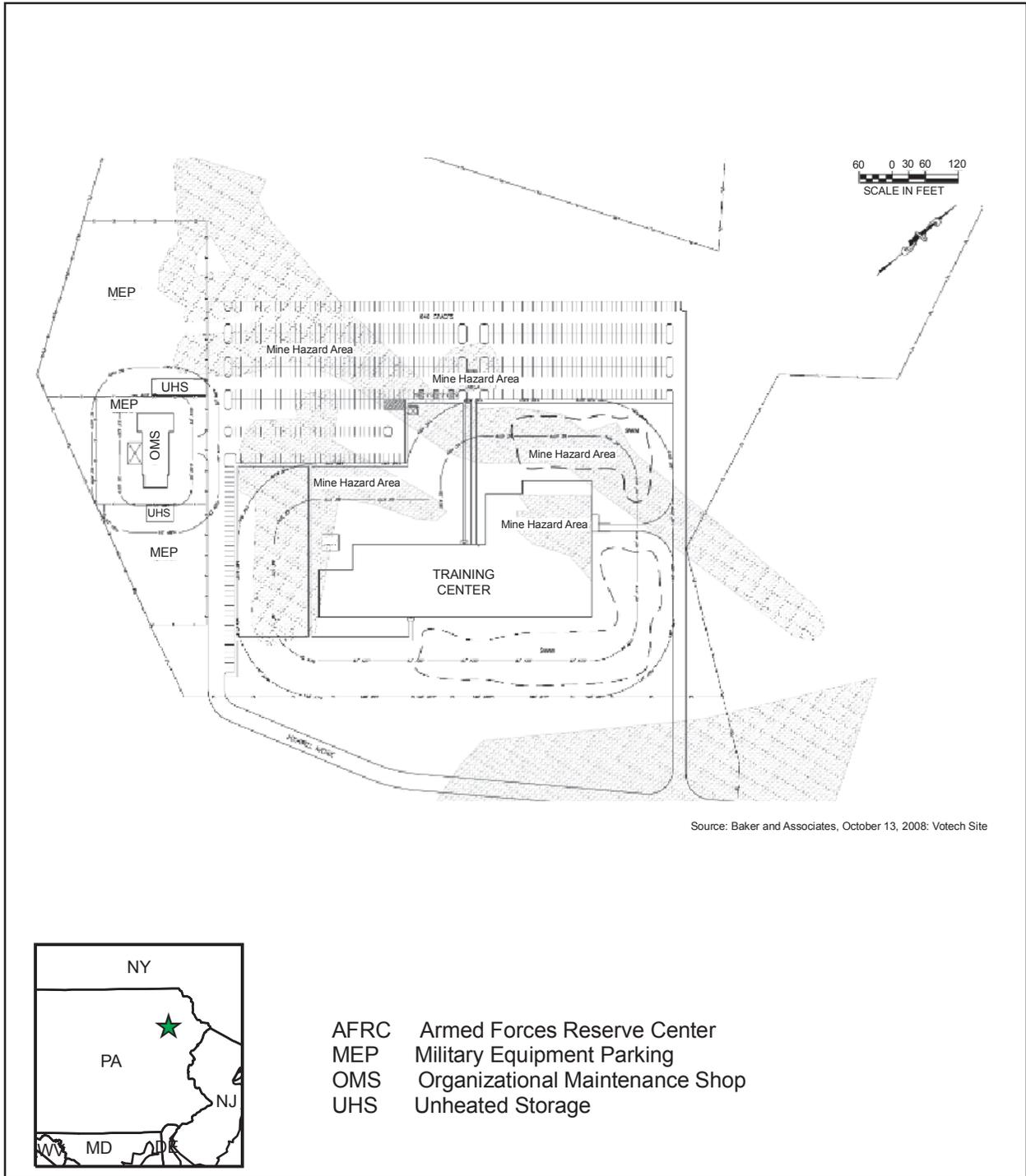


 Approximate boundary of buildable area

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Figure 3-3  
Aerial Photograph of the Vo-Tech Site - Alternative 1





Prepared For:  
 U.S Army Corps of Engineers, Mobile District

Figure 3-4  
 Preliminary AFRC/OMS Site Layout - Alternative 1



### **3.4.2 ALTERNATIVE 2**

Alternative 2 is to construct the AFRC and associated facilities at the location shown on Figure 3-2 and summarized on Table 3-1 as Site 5. This site is called the Marvine Business Park Site in this EA. The site consists of 81 acres and is located adjacent to I-81 between Olyphant Avenue and Boulevard Avenue.

The Marvine Business Park Site is a strip mine in the early stages of redevelopment. The Marvine Business Park Site sits on nine levels of mines. There was a sub-surface mine fire that burned for 15 years and is now extinguished. No vegetation remains on the site. Currently, there are active mining operations at the property, which include extracting coal and coal sediments from the remaining onsite material. Concurrent with the mining operations, the site is being graded to encourage development. As with the Vo-Tech Site, special foundation measures would need to be taken to construct the AFRC on the Marvine Business Park Site. These could include structural mat foundations and locating buildings outside of the “higher-risk” areas of the site where settlement is likely to occur.

Site access is from I-81 exit 190 through a residential area. Terrain is hilly and would require extensive site preparation. All utilities are available to the site however no infrastructure other than storm sewer and fire hydrants are in place at this time. Figure 3-4 shows an aerial photograph of the Marvine Business Park Site. Figure 3-5 shows the preliminary site layout of the proposed facilities.

### **3.4.3 NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE**

The No Action Alternative is included as required by the CEQ regulations to identify the existing baseline conditions against which potential impacts are evaluated. The No Action Alternative must be described because it is the baseline condition or the current status of the environment if the Proposed Action is not implemented. For realignment actions directed by the BRAC Commission, it is noted that the No Action Alternative is not feasible.

Under the No Action Alternative, the proposed facilities would not be constructed to accommodate the BRAC recommendations as described in Section 2.0.

## **3.5 Alternatives Considered and Not Carried Forward**

Five other alternative sites were considered in Scranton for the construction of the proposed AFRC (see Figure 3-1). Sites 1, 2, 3, 4, and 7 were eliminated from further study during the screening process due to various constraints as summarized in Table 3-1 and as described in more detail below.



 Approximate boundary of buildable area

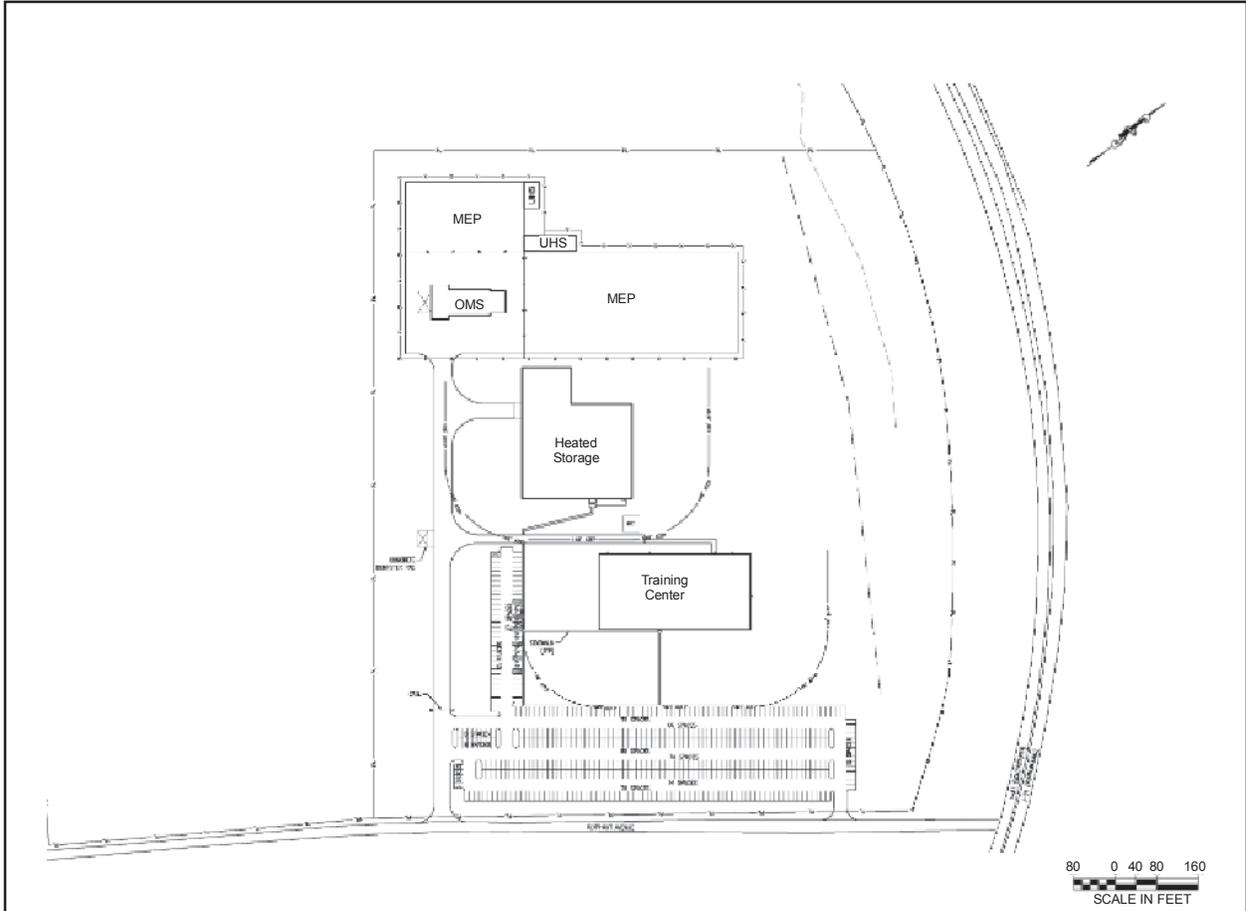


Prepared For:  
U.S Army Corps of Engineers, Mobile District

Figure 3-5

Aerial Photograph of the Marvine Business Park Site -  
Alternative 2





Source: Baker and Associates: Marvine Site



- AFRC Armed Forces Reserve Center
- MEP Military Equipment Parking
- OMS Organizational Maintenance Shop
- UHS Unheated Storage

Prepared For:  
 U.S Army Corps of Engineers, Mobile District

Figure 3-6  
 Preliminary AFRC/OMS Site Layout - Alternative 2



Site 1 is approximately 54 acres located in the extreme southern section of the City of Scranton, approximately 20 minutes drive time from Wilkes-Barre/Scranton International Airport. The site is somewhat remote and access is via a highly traveled two lane road. The road is used to access a ski area in the winter and a baseball park in the spring and summer. This site would require extensive site preparation. Costs would be high due to the rocky condition and exposed granite and the need for a new access road. For these reasons, Site 1 was rejected and is not carried forward for analysis in this EA.

Site 2 is approximately 21 acres and is part of an industrial complex at 1900 S. Washington Avenue. This site would require demolition of buildings. ATRP issues are present and the site is bordered by a river, railroad, and roadways. The site has limited visibility and possible environmental issues. For these reasons, Site 2 was rejected and is not carried forward for analysis in this EA.

Site 3 is located at Mount Pleasant Corporate Center between 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue, West Linden Street and Pennsylvania Route 307. The site is approximately 13 acres and is a narrow strip of land. It does not meet the size requirement of 25 acres. For this reason, Site 3 was rejected and is not carried forward for analysis in this EA.

Site 4 is located at Liberty Commons at Dickson Avenue and Electric Street. It is only 14.4 acres so does not meet the size requirement of 25 acres. It was initially considered because of the limited availability of properties within Scranton city limits due to Scranton's mature stage of urban development. However, it would also require extensive demolition of buildings and the access to the site is through town approximately 2 to 2.5 miles. For these reasons, Site 4 was rejected and is not carried forward for analysis in this EA.

Site 7 is an approximate 69-acre wooded area located east-northeast of the intersection of North Keyser Avenue and Ferdinand Street. Access is available via a power line cut, located between the south side of the site and a residential neighborhood. It is a former strip mine and is bordered by residential areas to the north and south, an industrial avenue to the east and the Pennsylvania Turnpike to the west. The terrain is generally sloped with a few level areas and the site would require extensive cut and fill. Site 7 was rejected due to extremely poor site access and high site preparation costs and is therefore not carried forward for analysis in this EA.

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## **4.0 AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT AND CONSEQUENCES**

### **4.1 Introduction**

This chapter describes the existing environmental and human resources that could potentially be affected by the Proposed Action and alternatives. The environment described in this chapter is the baseline for the consequences that are presented for each resource and each alternative. The region of influence (ROI), or study area for each resource category is the Vo-Tech and Marvine Business Park sites and immediate surroundings, unless stated otherwise in the individual resource category discussion. Most of the baseline information was taken from existing documentation.

This chapter also describes potential impacts for each environmental and human resource. An impact is defined as a consequence from modification to the existing environment due to a proposed action or alternative. Impacts can be beneficial or adverse, can be a primary result of an action (direct) or a secondary result (indirect), and can be permanent or long lasting (long term) or temporary and of short duration (short term). Impacts can vary in degree from a slightly noticeable change to a total change in the environment.

For this EA, short-term impacts are defined as those impacts resulting from construction, renovation, or demolition activities (e.g., those that are of temporary duration), whereas long-term impacts are those resulting from the presence of new facilities and operation of the proposed new facilities once they are constructed and commissioned for operation.

Significance criteria were developed for the affected resource categories, and for many resource categories, are necessarily qualitative in nature. Quantitative criteria can be established when there are specific numerical limits established by regulation or industry standard. These criteria are based on existing regulatory standards, scientific and environmental documentation, and/or professional judgment. Impacts are classified as significant or not significant based on the significance criteria. Significant impacts are those which would exceed the quantitative or qualitative limits of the established criteria, such as actions that would threaten a violation of Federal, state or local law or requirements imposed for the protection of the environment, or that would have adverse effects upon public health or safety. Impacts do not necessarily mean negative changes, and any detectable change is not, in and of itself, considered to be negative. In the following discussions, to highlight adverse impacts for the decision maker, the impacts are considered adverse unless identified as beneficial.

The affected environment and baseline conditions are described for each resource in general terms for the Vo-Tech and Marvine Business Park sites or the resource-specific ROI. The affected environment description for each resource is followed by the potential impacts to the resource from Alternative 1, Alternative 2, and the No Action Alternative.

### **4.2 Land Use**

#### **4.2.1 AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT**

This section describes existing land use conditions in and surrounding the Vo-Tech and Marvine Business Park sites. It considers natural land uses and land uses that reflect

human modification. Natural land use classifications include wildlife areas, forests, and other open or undeveloped areas. Human land uses include residential, commercial, industrial, utilities, agricultural, recreational, and other developed uses. Management plans, policies, ordinances, and regulations determine the types of uses that are allowable, or protect specially designated or environmentally sensitive uses.

The following sections discuss the regional geographic setting, location, and climate; land use; and current and future development in the ROI. The ROI for land use is the land within and adjacent to the Proposed Action project areas.

#### **4.2.1.1 Regional Geographic Setting, Location, and Climate**

The City of Scranton is the county seat of Lackawanna County in Northeastern Pennsylvania. Interstates 81, 84, 476, and 380 all converge in the Scranton area. Scranton is the geographic and cultural center of the Lackawanna River valley. It is the largest city located in a contiguous quilt-work of former anthracite coal mining communities including the smaller cities of Wilkes-Barre, Pittston, and Carbondale. The climate is warm during summer when temperatures tend to be in the 70's and very cold during winter when temperatures tend to be in the 20's. The annual average precipitation is approximately 38 inches.

#### **4.2.1.2 Land Use**

The Vo-Tech Site is located south of I-81, off Rockwell Avenue, adjacent to the Career Technology Center of Lackawanna County. It is a former subsurface and strip mine and unpaved roads exist on the site. Currently, there is no active use of the property. It is partially wooded, 60 percent to 80 percent covered by trees with the remaining area covered by 3 to 4-foot-high shrubs. The site is zoned institutional. It is bounded on the north by I-81 and on the southwest, south, and southeast by residential areas. Ingress/egress to the Vo-Tech Site is through a residential area.

The Marvine Business Park Site is located adjacent to I-81 between Olyphant Avenue and Boulevard Avenue. It is a former subsurface and strip mine. Currently, there are active mining operations at the property. The mining operations include extracting coal and coal sediments from the remaining onsite material. Concurrent with the mining operations, the site is being graded to encourage development. The property is approximately 80 percent flat and graded with piles of mine products as high as 20 feet above the surrounding flat areas. The site is zoned commercial, industrial, office. The site is bounded on the north by I-81, on the west by Boulevard Avenue, and on the east and southeast by Olyphant Avenue. There are residences along Olyphant Avenue. Ingress/egress to the Marvine Business Park Site is through a residential neighborhood.

#### **4.2.1.3 Current and Future Development in the Region of Influence**

The Scranton-Abingtons Planning Association has developed a comprehensive plan that is a general policy guide for future land use, development, conservation, and preservation in 11 local municipalities in Lackawanna County, including Scranton. The Preliminary Land Use Plan designates the Vo-Tech Site as "Institutional." The Plan designates the

Marvine Business Park Site as “Employment Center” and identifies an employment center as a concentration of commercial and industrial development (SAPA 2007).

Besides the ongoing mining operations at the Marvine Business Park Site, no other current or future development at the Vo-Tech or Marvine Business Park sites is known.

#### **4.2.2 CONSEQUENCES**

Considerations for impacts to land use include the land on and adjacent to the Proposed Action project area, the physical features that influence current or proposed uses, pertinent land use plans and regulations, and land availability. Conformity with existing land use is of utmost importance.

Potential impacts to land use are considered significant if the Proposed Action would:

- Conflict with applicable ordinances and/or permit requirements;
- Cause nonconformance with the current general plans and land use plans, or preclude adjacent or nearby properties from being used for existing activities; or
- Conflict with established uses of an area requiring mitigation.

##### **4.2.2.1 Alternative 1**

Potential impacts to land use from Alternative 1 would not be significant. Alternative 1 would not conflict with the Scranton-Abingtons Preliminary Comprehensive Plan that identifies the Vo-Tech Site as institutional. The proposed facilities would not interfere with activities on adjacent properties. Access to the site would be through a residential area, from I-81, exit 190 to Main Avenue to Greenbush Street to Rockwell Avenue. Section 4.11, Transportation, discusses traffic impacts to these roads.

Under Alternative 1, there would be a relatively long-term commitment of the land resources required for construction and operation of new facilities; this commitment of land resources is irreversible because the land likely cannot be completely restored to its original condition and other uses would be precluded during the time the land is being used for the proposed use.

##### **4.2.2.2 Alternative 2**

Potential impacts to land use from Alternative 2 would not be significant. Alternative 2 would not conflict with the Scranton-Abingtons Preliminary Comprehensive Plan that identifies the Marvine Business Park Site as “Employment Center” and identifies an employment center as a concentration of commercial and industrial development. The proposed facilities would not interfere with activities on adjacent properties. Access to the site would be through a residential area from I-81, exit 190 to Main Avenue to Parker Street to Boulevard Avenue. Section 4.11, Transportation, discusses traffic impacts to these roads.

Under Alternative 2, there would be a relatively long-term commitment of the land resources required for construction and operation of new facilities; this commitment of

land resources is irreversible because the land likely cannot be completely restored to its original condition and other uses would be precluded during the time the land is being used for the proposed use, but it does not constitute an irretrievable commitment of resources because the use is not consumptive and the land would remain available to future generations.

#### **4.2.2.3 No Action Alternative**

Under the No Action Alternative, there would be no changes in land use at the Vo-Tech and Marvine Business Park sites.

### **4.3 Aesthetics and Visual Resources**

#### **4.3.1 AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT**

This section describes the existing aesthetic and visual resource conditions in the area of the Vo-Tech and Marvine Business Park sites. Visual resources include natural and manmade physical features that provide the landscape its character and value as an environmental resource. Landscape features that form a viewer's overall impression about an area include landform, vegetation, water, color, adjacent scenery, scarcity, and constructed modifications to the natural setting. The ROI for aesthetics includes the areas visible from the Proposed Action construction locations and areas from which the Proposed Action construction locations are visible.

Scranton is an urban area with a history as an industrial center in iron and coal production. Much of the land area of Scranton has been previously mined, including both the Vo-Tech and Marvine Business Park sites. The Vo-Tech Site is located off Rockwell Avenue, south of I-81. It is rugged and partially wooded. Residences to the south, southeast, and southwest and the Career Technology Center of Lackawanna County to the northeast are visible from the site.

The Marvine Business Park Site is located adjacent to I-81 between Olyphant Avenue and Boulevard Avenue. The property is approximately 80 percent flat and graded. Currently, there are active mining operations at the property. Piles of soils, byproducts of mining, are as high as 20 feet above the surrounding flat areas. Residences located along Olyphant Avenue are visible from the site.

#### **4.3.2 CONSEQUENCES**

Potential impacts to aesthetic and visual resources are considered significant if the Proposed Action would substantially degrade the natural or constructed physical features in the area of the Vo-Tech and Marvine Business Park sites that provide the area its character and value as an environmental resource. The magnitude of any impact would be primarily determined by the number of viewers affected, viewer sensitivity to changes, distance of viewing, and compatibility with existing land use.

##### **4.3.2.1 Alternative 1**

Potential impacts to aesthetics and visual resources from Alternative 1 would not be significant. Alternative 1 would cause minor short-term visual impacts resulting from

ground disturbance and the presence of workers, vehicles, and equipment and the generation of dust and vehicle exhaust associated with construction of the proposed facilities. However, once construction is complete, the reclamation of disturbed areas would remove these visual impacts.

Construction of the AFRC and OMS on the Vo-Tech Site would result in a long-term beneficial visual impact to the site, creating a modern and well-landscaped facility. Force protection measures would be incorporated as practicable into the design of the facility, such that aesthetically-unappealing bollards would be unnecessary. The AFRC would be visible from the Career Technology Center of Lackawanna County and from residences to the south, southeast, and southwest.

Operations at the AFRC and OMS would result in minor adverse aesthetic impacts, including increased traffic and nighttime light on weekends when the facilities are in use. The maximum number of individuals reporting on any given weekend is expected to be approximately 608; only 42 full-time personnel would commute to the site daily.

#### **4.3.2.2 Alternative 2**

Potential impacts to aesthetics and visual resources from Alternative 2 would not be significant. Impacts from construction would be as described for Alternative 1. A beneficial long-term impact would occur from cleanup of the mining activities and redevelopment of the site. The AFRC would be visible from I-81 and from the residences along Olyphant Avenue.

Operations at the AFRC and OMS would result in minor adverse aesthetic impacts, including increased traffic and nighttime light on weekends when the facilities are in use. The maximum number of individuals reporting on any given weekend is expected to be approximately 608; only 42 full-time personnel would commute to the site daily.

#### **4.3.2.3 No Action Alternative**

Under the No Action Alternative, there would be no effects on the viewshed or on the aesthetic values of the region.

### **4.4 Air Quality**

#### **4.4.1 AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT**

This section describes the existing air quality conditions at and surrounding the Vo-Tech and Marvine Business Park sites. Ambient air quality conditions are discussed first followed by regional air pollutant emissions.

##### **4.4.1.1 Ambient Air Quality Conditions**

The ambient air quality in an area can be characterized in terms of whether it complies with the primary and secondary National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS). The CAA (42 U.S.C. 7401 et seq.) requires the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to set NAAQS for pollutants considered harmful to public health and the environment. National primary ambient air quality standards define levels of air quality which the EPA

has determined as necessary to provide an adequate margin of safety to protect public health, including the health of “sensitive” populations such as children and the elderly. National secondary ambient air quality standards define levels of air quality which are deemed necessary to protect the public welfare, including protection against decreased visibility and damage to animals, crops, vegetation, and buildings.

NAAQS have been established for six criteria pollutants: carbon monoxide (CO); lead (Pb); nitrogen dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>); ozone (O<sub>3</sub>); particulate matter (which includes both particulate matter with an aerodynamic size less than or equal to 10 microns [PM<sub>10</sub>] and particulate matter with an aerodynamic size less than or equal to 2.5 microns [PM<sub>2.5</sub>]); and sulfur dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>). Table 4-1 lists the NAAQS primary standards for each criteria pollutant. Pennsylvania has adopted all of the NAAQS standards as well as several standards of its own, which are listed in Table 4-2.

**Table 4-1.** National Ambient Air Quality Standards.

<b>Pollutant</b>	<b>Standard Value</b>
<b>Carbon monoxide (CO)</b>	
8-hour average	9 ppm
1-hour average	35 ppm
<b>Lead (Pb)</b>	
Quarterly average	1.5 µg/m <sup>3</sup>
<b>Nitrogen dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>)</b>	
Annual arithmetic mean	0.053 ppm
<b>Ozone (O<sub>3</sub>)</b>	
8-hour average (2008 standard)	0.075 ppm
<b>Particulate matter less than 10 microns (PM<sub>10</sub>)</b>	
24-hour average	150 µg/m <sup>3</sup>
<b>Particulate matter less than 2.5 microns (PM<sub>2.5</sub>)</b>	
Annual arithmetic mean	15.0 µg/m <sup>3</sup>
24-hour average	35 µg/m <sup>3</sup>
<b>Sulfur dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>)</b>	
Annual arithmetic mean	0.03 ppm
24-hour average	0.14 ppm

Source: 40 CFR 50.4 through 50.13  
 µg/m<sup>3</sup> micrograms per cubic meter  
 ppm parts per million

**Table 4-2.** Other Pennsylvania Ambient Air Quality Standards.

<b>Pollutant</b>	<b>Standard Value</b>
<b>Beryllium</b>	
30-day average	0.01 µg/m <sup>3</sup>
<b>Fluorides</b>	
24-hour average	5 µg/m <sup>3</sup>
<b>Hydrogen Sulfide</b>	

Pollutant	Standard Value
24-hour average	0.005 ppm
1-hour average	0.1 ppm

Source: 25 Pennsylvania Code § 131.3

$\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$  micrograms per cubic meter

ppm parts per million

General air quality monitoring is conducted in areas of high population density and near major sources of air pollutant emissions. Rural areas are typically not considered in such monitoring. Regions that are in compliance with the NAAQS are designated as attainment areas. Areas for which no monitoring data is available are designated as unclassified and are by default considered to be in attainment of the NAAQS. In areas where the applicable NAAQS are not being met, a non-attainment status is designated.

Scranton, Pennsylvania is located within Lackawanna County of the Northeast Pennsylvania Interstate Air Quality Control Region (AQCR), AQCR 151. Lackawanna County's air quality meets the NAAQS and is thus classified as being in attainment.

#### 4.4.1.2 Regional Air Pollutant Emissions Summary

Regional air pollutant emissions from reported values are listed below in Table 4-3 for Lackawanna County, Pennsylvania, for the year 2001, the most recent year available.

**Table 4-3.** Air Emissions Reported for Lackawanna County, Pennsylvania, for Calendar Year 2001.

Pollutant	2001 Emissions (tpy)		
	Area Source <sup>a</sup>	Point Source <sup>b</sup>	Total
Particulate matter less than 2.5 microns (PM <sub>2.5</sub> )	1,180	138	1,318
Particulate matter less than 10 microns (PM <sub>10</sub> )	4,166	160	4,326
Carbon monoxide (CO)	69,790	3,794	73,584
Nitrogen oxides (NO <sub>x</sub> )	7,620	553	8,173
Sulfur dioxides (SO <sub>2</sub> )	2,051	498	2,549

Source: EPA 2008

tpy tons per year

a. Any source of air pollution that is released over a relatively small area but which cannot be classified as a point source, and which may include vehicles and other small engines, small businesses, and household activities that release hydrocarbons.

b. A stationary location or fixed facility from which pollutants are discharged, such as a factory smokestack.

#### 4.4.2 CONSEQUENCES

Potential impacts to air quality are considered significant if the Proposed Action would:

- Increase ambient air pollution above any NAAQS;
- Contribute to an existing violation of any NAAQS;
- Interfere with or delay timely attainment of NAAQS; or
- Impair visibility within any federally mandated Prevention of Significant Deterioration (PSD) Class I area.

#### **4.4.2.1 Alternative 1**

Overall, potential impacts to air quality from Alternative 1 would not be significant. Short-term air quality impacts from Alternative 1 would occur from construction activities associated with the movement of heavy equipment. Construction activities would be temporary and would occur in a localized area. Contaminants generated from construction would include particulate matter, vehicle emissions, and increased wind-borne dust (i.e. fugitive dust). Erosion control measures (ECMs) would be implemented to minimize generation of fugitive dust. Within the construction site, appropriate ECMs would be identified that would provide optimum dust suppression. ECMs typically utilize (but are not limited to) either wind speed reduction or water suppression strategies (or both) during construction by fencing or wetting areas of soil disturbance. Vehicular and construction equipment exhaust would be a source of pollutant emissions, but would have a negligible impact on air quality. The emissions from construction activities and workers traveling to and from the site would be minor compared to the total existing vehicular emissions in the area.

Long-term impacts associated with operation of the proposed AFRC and OMS are not likely to occur. No fueling facilities, underground storage tanks, or paint booths would be required for the AFRC and OMS. The vehicles associated with the use of these facilities by additional reservists would not be expected to result in significant impacts to air quality because the additional traffic would be spread across all weekends of the month and the vehicles associated with the use of these facilities are currently associated with Serrenti Memorial United States Army Reserve Center and the Organizational Maintenance Shop in Scranton, and the United States Army Reserve Center in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania. Any incremental increase in motor vehicle emissions would not increase criteria pollutant concentrations above the NAAQS. Because the facilities would be designed to the LEED Silver standard, the HVAC system would emit fewer pollutants than the current systems in Scranton and Wilkes-Barre.

#### **4.4.2.2 Alternative 2**

Overall, potential impacts to air quality from Alternative 2 would not be significant. The air quality impacts for Alternative 2 would be similar to those for Alternative 1.

#### **4.4.2.3 No Action Alternative**

Under the No Action Alternative, no changes or impacts would occur to air quality.

### **4.5 Noise**

#### **4.5.1 AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT**

This section describes the existing noise conditions in the area of the Vo-Tech and Marvine Business Park sites. Noise measurement is discussed first, followed by noise sources in the area of the Vo-Tech and Marvine Business Park sites.

### **4.5.1.1 Noise Measurement**

Noise is generally defined as unwanted sound. Sound is all around us; it becomes noise when it interferes with normal activities such as speech, concentration, or sleep. Noise associated with military installations is a factor in land use planning both on- and off-post. Noise emanates from vehicular traffic associated with new facilities and from project sites during construction. Ambient noise (the existing background noise environment) can be generated by a number of noise sources, including mobile sources, such as automobiles and trucks, and stationary sources such as construction sites, machinery, or industrial operations. In addition, there is an existing and variable level of natural ambient noise from sources such as wind, streams and rivers, wildlife and other sources.

Sound is measured with instruments that record instantaneous sound levels in decibels (dB). A-weighted sound level measurements (dBA) are used to characterize sound levels that can be sensed by the human ear. The typical measurement for quieter sounds, such as rustling leaves or a quiet room, is from 20 to 30 dBA. Conversational speech is commonly 60 dBA, and a home lawn mower measures approximately 98 dBA. The day-night average sound level is commonly used to describe the receiver's cumulative noise exposure over a full 24 hours, with events between 10 p.m. and 7 a.m. increased by 10 decibels to account for greater nighttime sensitivity to noise. All sound levels discussed in this EA are A-weighted.

### **4.5.1.2 Noise Sources in the area of the Vo-Tech and Marvine Business Park Sites**

Typical background levels of noise in urban residential areas range from 55 dBA to 70 dBA. The major source of noise at the Vo-Tech and Marvine Business Park sites is traffic. Traffic noise from interstate highways at 100 feet is typically 70 dBA. On-going mining operations are also a source of noise at the Marvine Business Park Site.

## **4.5.2 CONSEQUENCES**

Potential noise impacts resulting from the Proposed Action are evaluated with respect to the potential for:

- Annoyance – noise can impact the performance of various every day activities such as communication and watching television in residential areas.
- Hearing loss – the EPA recommends limiting daily equivalent energy to 70 dBA, approximately 75 dBA day-night average sound level, to protect against hearing impairment over a period of 40 years.
- Sleep interference, which is of great concern in residential areas.

The standard threshold for determining at what point noise impacts become a nuisance is 65 dBA day-night average sound level.

#### **4.5.2.1 Alternative 1**

Overall, potential noise impacts from Alternative 1 would not be significant. Minor adverse short-term noise impacts related to the construction of the AFRC, OMS, and other associated facilities would occur. The Career Technology Center and residences near the boundaries of the site could be subject to minor, short-term adverse impacts from noise generated during the construction of the proposed facilities. Construction equipment may generate noise levels up to 85 dBA at 50 feet; however, this type of equipment generally operates about 40 percent of the time when it is being used at a construction site (ANSI 1980). Effects of construction noise could be reduced by employing best management practices (BMPs), such as confining construction activities to normal working hours and employing noise-controlled construction equipment to the extent possible.

Once the facilities become operational, adverse long-term noise effects would not be expected from their day-to-day use. Once facilities are constructed, noise would be generated by facility operations and the vehicles associated with these facilities. Aside from negligible HVAC-related noise, the facilities would not generate high levels of noise themselves. During power outages, operation of emergency generators could cause minor, short-term noise impacts. Most noise is usually created by vehicles associated with these facilities, including organizational vehicles used for training and operations, government and private delivery vehicles, commuter shuttles or buses, and personal vehicles used for commuting purposes. The noise impact created by facility and vehicle operations would not be significant compared to existing ambient noise.

Under the Proposed Action, approximately 1,000 personnel would use the AFRC complex at Scranton. However, as a reserve center, the majority of these individuals would report to the site on weekends and not all would report on the same weekend. The maximum number of individuals reporting on any given weekend is expected to be approximately 680 and would contribute increased traffic noise to the current environment. The estimated 42 full-time personnel commuting to the site daily would contribute negligible amounts of traffic noise to the current noise environment.

#### **4.5.2.2 Alternative 2**

Overall, potential noise impacts from Alternative 2 would not be significant. Sources and levels of noise generated during construction and operations under Alternative 2 would be the same as for Alternative 1. Residences are located on Olyphant Avenue. These residences would be subject to minor, short-term adverse impacts from noise generated during the construction of the proposed facilities. Effects of construction noise could be reduced by employing BMPs, such as confining construction activities to normal working hours and employing noise-controlled construction equipment to the extent possible.

Noise impacts created by facility and vehicle operations would not be significant compared to noise from existing traffic on I-81 and noise from on-going mining activities.

### **4.5.2.3 No Action Alternative**

Under the No Action Alternative, no changes or impacts would occur to noise levels on or surrounding the Vo-Tech and Marvine Business Park sites.

## **4.6 Geology and Soils**

### **4.6.1 AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT**

This section describes the existing geology and soil conditions in the area of the Vo-Tech and Marvine Business Park sites. Geologic and topographic conditions are discussed first, followed by soils, and prime farmland. The ROI for geology and soils is the land within the Proposed Action project areas. Soil data and information were produced by the National Cooperative Soil Survey and accessed using the Web Soil Survey maintained by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service.

#### **4.6.1.1 Geologic and Topographic Conditions**

The Vo-Tech Site is flat to gently sloping towards the west. The elevation of the site ranges from 900 to 960 feet above mean sea level (MSL). A small area, just south of the site, stands up to 1000 feet above MSL (USDOI GS 1994). The site is located in the Anthracite Valley Section of the Ridge and Valley Physiographic Province of Pennsylvania (DCNR 2000). Beneath the surficial soils, according to the Geologic Map of Pennsylvania, the Vo-Tech Site lies on Pennsylvanian (290-323 million years old) rocks consisting of cyclic sequences of sandstone, red and gray shale, conglomerate, clay, coal, and limestone (DCNR 2000).

The bulk of the surface area of the Marvine Business Park Site is undulating ranging from 760 to 800 feet above MSL. At the southwestern corner of the site, the topography shows a sharp slope, going from 800 feet above MSL to 900 feet above MSL in less than 100 feet distance (USDOI GS 1994). This site is also located in the Anthracite Valley Section of the Ridge and Valley Physiographic Province of Pennsylvania (DCNR 2000). As with the Vo-Tech Site, beneath the surficial soils, the Marvine Business Park Site lies on Pennsylvanian (290-323 million years old) rocks consisting of cyclic sequences of sandstone, red and gray shale, conglomerate, clay, coal, and limestone (DNCR 2000).

As reported in the Management Summary of the Environmental Condition of Property Report, a discussion with Pennsylvania Bureau of Abandoned Mine Reclamation (BAMR) personnel revealed the following concerns for both the Vo-Tech and the Marvine Business Park sites:

- When the surface mines are backfilled, overburden and tailings from the mine as well as off-site materials are commonly used.
- Mining equipment or other materials are often buried in place.
- The fill material is not typically compacted.

This poses two concerns – the unknown nature of the fill material and the geotechnical aspect of subsidence (a common occurrence in northeastern Pennsylvania). There is also the potential for acid mine drainage from abandoned mines (Vo-Tech) as well as the active mining activities at the Marvine Business Park Site. The Marvine Business Park Site has numerous large piles of coal and tailings on the site.

Historical data of seismic activity in Pennsylvania indicate that the Vo-Tech and Marvine Business Park sites have not been significantly affected by seismic activity. Two earthquake events occurred in Lackawanna County in 1960 and 1963 as a result of quarry blast and/or collapsing mines. These earthquakes had a magnitude of 3.4 and 3.7, respectively on the Richter Scale (DCNR 2003). A third earthquake was recorded in 1940. Its magnitude is unknown and it is believed to have been caused by a mining related event (DCNR 2003). Lackawanna County is located outside the areas of Pennsylvania that have a 2 percent probability of experiencing an earthquake with peak horizontal ground acceleration (PHGA) exceeding 10 percent g (acceleration due to gravity). The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PDEP) requires that structures built in areas that can expect PHGA exceeding 10 percent g with a probability of 10 percent in 250 years (which is equivalent to 2 percent probability in 50 years) incorporate specific seismic safety design features (DCNR 2003). This requirement does not apply to the Vo-Tech and Marvine Business Park sites which are located in an area of PHGA of 9 percent g.

#### **4.6.1.2 Soils**

The Vo-Tech Site is covered by soils classified as Udorthents, strip mine (Udorthent). Udorthents are a subclass of Orthents and represent recent erosional surfaces. In the case of the Udorthents at the Vo-Tech site, the erosional surface was created as a result of strip mining. This soil unit is composed of 40 percent sand, 45 percent silt, and 15 percent clay. The Udorthent is characterized by low susceptibility to sheet and rill erosion by water and very low susceptibility to wind erosion. The moist bulk density of the Udorthents ranges from 0.90 to 1.30 grams per cubic centimeter and its saturated hydraulic conductivity ranges from 1.41 to 42.34 micrometers per second. Soils of the Udorthent exhibit moderate runoff potential when drained and high runoff potential when undrained (USDA NRCS 2008).

The Marvine Business Park Site soils classification is Dump, mine and Dump, burned. These units represent accumulation of mine products, processed and unprocessed. Dump, mine and Dump, burned are also a subclass of Orthents but are not related to natural surfaces. They are not rated as good sources of sand or gravel. Their sand, silt, and clay ratio; moist bulk density; hydraulic conductivity; and runoff potential are undetermined (USDA NRCS 2008).

#### **4.6.1.3 Prime Farmland**

Prime farmland is land that has the best combination of physical and chemical characteristics for producing food, feed, forage, fiber, and oilseed crops, and is also available for these uses. Prime farmland could be cultivated land, pasture land, forest land, or other land, but it is not urban or built-up land or water areas (USDA NRCS

2008). Prime farmland is protected by the Farmland Protection Policy Act; however, urban lands and lands that are used for national defense purposes are exempt [7 CFR 658.3(b)] from the provisions of the Farmland Protection Policy Act (7 CFR Parts 657 and 658). The Vo-Tech and Marvine Business Park sites are not considered prime farmland areas (USDA NRCS 2008).

## **4.6.2 CONSEQUENCES**

Potential impacts to geology or soils are considered significant if the Proposed Action would:

- Expose people or structures to major geologic hazards;
- Cause substantial erosion or siltation;
- Cause substantial land sliding; or
- Cause substantial damage to project structures/facilities.

### **4.6.2.1 Alternative 1**

Overall, potential adverse impacts to geology and soils from Alternative 1 would not be significant. The AFRC training building, the OMS and the unheated storage building would cover an area of 130,000 square feet or approximately 3 acres. In addition, other paved areas would cover approximately 8 acres. These structures would result in a total area of approximately 11 acres being covered with an impervious surface. This would reduce the total area of water infiltration in the Vo-Tech Site by approximately 20 percent.

Recorded seismic data for Lackawanna County indicate that there were only three seismic events, all caused as a result of mining activities/events as discussed above. There should not be any impact to the proposed structures at the Vo-Tech Site from seismic events of the magnitudes recorded at Lackawanna County. Furthermore, the Vo-Tech Site is located in an area with PHGA below the PDEP threshold that mandates incorporating specific seismic safety design features when constructing facilities. Seismic impacts at the Vo-Tech Site would not be significant.

The construction of the AFRC training building, OMS, and unheated storage building would involve excavation, grading, and movement of heavy equipment at the Vo-Tech Site. These activities would disturb the surface soil, thereby increasing the potential for soil erosion by wind and runoff. Wind and water erosion of soil can be mitigated by implementing BMPs. The construction contract would state that BMPs for erosion control, top soil management, and revegetation would be required. Erosion control during construction activities would be undertaken with the use of hay bales and silt fencing, as appropriate, to prevent the movement of soils into low-lying areas, and could also include scheduling construction activities for periods of lowest precipitation. Topsoil would be added to support landscaping around buildings. Once the facilities are operational and new vegetation is in place, additional erosion of topsoil would be minimal and would be limited or mitigated through adherence to a storm water management plan.

Beneficial impacts would occur from reclamation of an abandoned mine. As noted above, two concerns include the unknown nature of the fill material and the geotechnical aspect of subsidence. Special foundation measures may need to be taken.

Unconsolidated fills could be improved by dynamic compaction, a process that drops heavy weights from heights as high as 75 to 80 feet to consolidate the fills.

#### **4.6.2.2 Alternative 2**

Overall, potential impacts to geology and soils from Alternative 2 would not be significant. The impacts to geology and soils for Alternative 2 would be similar to those for Alternative 1. For the Marvine Business Park Site, the total area of water infiltration would be reduced by approximately 14 percent.

#### **4.6.2.3 No Action Alternative**

Under the No Action Alternative, no changes or impacts would occur to geologic or soil resources.

### **4.7 Water Resources**

#### **4.7.1 AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT**

This section describes existing water resources on and in the area of the Vo-Tech and Marvine Business Park sites, including surface and groundwater resources. Surface water includes lakes, rivers, and streams and is important for a variety of reasons, including economic, ecological, recreational, and human health. Groundwater comprises the subsurface hydrogeologic resources of the physical environment. This section also discusses floodplains. Wetlands are discussed in Section 4.8.1.4. The ROI for water resources includes the Vo-Tech and Marvine Business Park sites and areas downstream from the Proposed Action project areas.

##### **4.7.1.1 Surface Water**

The Vo-Tech and Marvine Business Park sites are located within the Upper Susquehanna-Lackawanna Watershed. The major surface water features in the vicinity of the Vo-Tech Site include two unnamed ponds across Interstate Route 81, less than 100 feet from the site. The Leggetts Creek which flows southward and then eastward to join the Lackawanna River is approximately 0.5 mile west of the Vo-Tech Site. Lake Scranton is located approximately 5 miles south southeast of the Vo-Tech Site. The only water feature in the vicinity of the Marvine Business Park Site is the Lackawanna River, which is located approximately 0.25 mile west of the site and flows towards the south. Lake Scranton is approximately 4 miles south of the Marvine Business Park Site (USDOI GS 1994).

The 62-mile long Lackawanna River drains a 350-square-mile watershed in Northeastern Pennsylvania. It flows through several municipalities in the vicinity of the City of Scranton, the largest community within the watershed. The lower 40 miles of the river are seriously impacted by mine drainage from abandoned anthracite coal beds that underlie and flank the river valley. The sources of mine drainage are both point, such as mine outfalls, and non-point, such as vast coal refuse banks. In addition to acid mine

drainage, communities built to support these mining activities have been discharging combined storm and sanitary sewage into the river since mining activities began during wet weather events.

The Lackawanna Watershed Program is an ongoing program to improve the water quality of the Lackawanna River in Lackawanna County, Pennsylvania. The program is funded through a grant from the EPA to Lackawanna County. Funds are administered by the County Commissioners through the County's Office of Strategic Planning and Special Projects. Lackawanna Watershed addresses two of the largest contributing factors to poor water quality; outdated municipal sewer systems and contaminated outflow from abandoned mines.

#### **4.7.1.2 Hydrogeology/Groundwater**

Groundwater underlying Lackawanna County is replenished by precipitation being absorbed into the soil and underlying strata and by infiltration of surface water from rivers, lakes, ponds, and streams. Specifically, groundwater at the Vo-Tech and Marvine Business Park sites is recharged from percolation of rain water through the surface soils and infiltration of surface water from the Leggetts Creek, Lackawanna River, and unnamed ponds located in the vicinity of the sites. The ROI is located in the part of Lackawanna County that is considered to be part of the Ridge and Valley Province. Groundwater in this province is primarily stored in fracture zones and to a lesser degree in the pores of sandstones, limestones, and dolomites (PDEP 2008). Groundwater in the vicinity of the Vo-Tech Site flows southeast and in the Marvine Business Park Site to the west towards Lackawanna River.

Thirty percent of Pennsylvania's domestic water use comes from groundwater. In addition, groundwater contributes 74 percent of the water used for agriculture; 10 percent of the water used for industry; 84 percent of the water used for mining; and 58 percent of the water used for commercial purposes. In 1990, groundwater constituted 10 percent of the total water consumption in Lackawanna County (Fleeger 1999). Municipal water service is currently available at the Career Technology Center adjacent to the Vo-Tech Site and along Olyphant Boulevard adjacent to the Marvine Business Park Site. Water can easily be extended to service the proposed facility (Baker 2008).

#### **4.7.1.3 Floodplains**

EO 11988, *Flood Plain Management*, requires that development in floodplains be avoided if practicable. The Vo-Tech and Marvine Business Park sites are completely outside of the 100-year floodplain as shown on Federal Emergency Management Agency issued flood maps for Lackawanna County, Pennsylvania (FEMA 1976).

### **4.7.2 CONSEQUENCES**

Potential impacts to water resources, including surface water and groundwater are considered significant if the Proposed Action would:

- Irreversibly diminish water resource availability, quality, and beneficial uses;

- Reduce water availability or interfere with a potable supply or water habitat;
- Create or contribute to overdraft of groundwater or exceed a safe annual yield of water supply sources;
- Result in an adverse effect on water quality or an endangerment to public health by creating or worsening adverse health hazard conditions;
- Result in a threat or damage to unique hydrological characteristics; or
- Violate an established law or regulation that has been adopted to protect or manage water resources of an area.

Potential impacts that would be considered significant related to floodplain management include:

- Potential damage to structures located in the floodplain; and
- Changes to the extent, elevation, or other features of the floodplain as a result of flood protection measures or other structures being silted in or removed from the floodplain.

#### **4.7.2.1 Alternative 1**

Overall, potential impacts to water resources from Alternative 1 would not be significant. Neither the quality nor the quantity of surface water would be significantly reduced. The completion of the proposed structures at the Vo-Tech Site would result in covering 11 acres of the site with impervious cover. This is equivalent to approximately 20 percent of the site's area. The reduction in groundwater recharge as a result of the covered area would not have significant impact on the regional groundwater. Municipal water is readily available as discussed above and in Section 4.12.1.1.

The construction of the AFRC training building, OMS, and unheated storage building would involve excavation, grading, and movement of heavy equipment at the Vo-Tech Site. These activities would disturb the surface soil, thereby increasing the potential for soil erosion by runoff. Erosion of soil can be mitigated by implementing BMPs. The construction contract would state that BMPs for erosion control, top soil management, and revegetation would be required. This would make potential effects insignificant. Erosion control during construction activities would be undertaken with the use of hay bales and silt fencing, as appropriate, to prevent the movement of soils into low-lying areas, and could also include scheduling construction activities for periods of lowest precipitation. Once the facilities are operational and new vegetation is in place, additional erosion of topsoil would be minimal and would be limited or mitigated through adherence to a storm water management plan.

Potential nonpoint storm water impacts would not be significant with implementation of BMPs and a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP). The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection is responsible for administering the state's stormwater management program. The SWPPP would address site specific requirements and monitoring. Point discharges of wastewater are prohibited by existing National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) requirements under the CWA. Spills

would be mitigated using procedures identified in a Spill Prevention Control and Countermeasures (SPCC) plan to reduce potential impacts to surface water and/or groundwater.

The Proposed Action does not include construction within the 100-year floodplain, therefore, no impacts to floodplains from the Proposed Action would occur. There would be no impacts to the Proposed Action structures caused by building in a floodplain.

#### **4.7.2.2 Alternative 2**

Overall, potential impacts to water resources from Alternative 2 would not be significant. The impacts to water resources for Alternative 2 would be similar to those for Alternative 1. The completion of the proposed structures at the Marvine Business Park Site would result in covering 11 acres of the site with impervious cover. This is equivalent to approximately 14 percent of the site's area. As with Alternative 1, a SWPPP would be developed in accordance with applicable laws and regulations.

#### **4.7.2.3 No Action Alternative**

Under the No Action Alternative, no changes or impacts would occur to water resources.

### **4.8 Biological Resources**

#### **4.8.1 AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT**

This section describes existing biological resources at the Vo-Tech and Marvine Business Park sites. It focuses on plant and animal species or habitat types that are typical or are an important element of the ecosystem, are of special category importance (of special interest due to societal concerns), or are protected under state or Federal law or statute regulatory requirement. Vegetation is discussed first, followed by wildlife, sensitive species, and wetlands. The ROI for biological resources is the land within the Proposed Action project areas.

##### **4.8.1.1 Vegetation**

The Vo-Tech and Marvine Business Park sites are both located in urban, developed areas. The Vo-Tech Site is currently 60 percent to 80 percent covered by trees, and the remaining area is covered by grasses and shrubs. Typical woody species of the area include scrub oak, chestnut oak, red maple, and pitch pine, as well as low growing species of blueberry and huckleberry. The Marvine Business Park Site has areas of active and former strip mining. It is in the early stages of redevelopment with approximately 80 percent of the site being flat and graded. Figure 3-4 confirms the disturbed nature of the site. There is a young, narrow stand of trees and shrubs along the edge of the site that is bordered by I-81. This area has been reclaimed as part of the Lackawanna Watershed Program described in Section 4.7.1.1.

##### **4.8.1.2 Wildlife**

Wildlife at the Vo-Tech Site is typical of the urban wildlife found in the region. No wildlife was noted during a recent site visit, but with the vegetative cover present, the wildlife species that might be found here include white-tailed deer (*Odocoileus*

*virginianus*), groundhogs (*Marmota monax*), red (*Vulpes vulpes*) or gray foxes (*Urocyon cinereoargenteus*), opossums (*Didelphis virginiana*), Eastern cottontail rabbits (*Sylvilagus floridanus*), squirrels (*Sciurus spp.*), and various passerine birds species. The Marvine Business Park Site with its past and current mining and redevelopment activities is unlikely habitat for any wildlife except small open-terrain species such as ground squirrels (*Spermophilus spp.*). Neither site has wetlands, so no wildlife species common to wetlands would be found at these sites.

#### **4.8.1.3 Sensitive Species**

Under Section 7 of the ESA, the Army is mandated to use their authority to ensure actions are approved, funded, or carried out to protect both flora and fauna that are considered threatened and endangered species or proposed for listing as threatened or endangered species on the Scranton sites. In compliance with the ESA, consultation and coordination has been initiated with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and a copy of this consultation letter may be found in Appendix A. The Army also sent scoping letters to the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, the Pennsylvania Game Commission, and the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission. Consultation letters are included in Appendix A.

Despite the absence of any sensitive species at this time, once the new AFRC facilities are in place and additional landscaping is complete, the Army will continue to periodically monitor the biological resources at the site. If any sensitive species are encountered in the future, the Army will follow-up with Federal and state regulatory agencies as appropriate.

#### **4.8.1.4 Wetlands**

Wetlands are defined by the USACE and the EPA based on the presence of wetland vegetation, wetland hydrology, and hydric soils with certain land area considerations. Wetlands and other surface water features, which may include intermittent and perennial streams, are generally considered “waters of the United States” by the USACE, and under their definition of “jurisdictional waters/features,” are protected under Section 404 of the CWA. Activities in wetlands are also regulated under Title 25 of Pennsylvania Code, Chapter 105.

While there have been no formal delineation of wetlands performed on either the Vo-Tech or the Marvine Business Park site, a recent site visit found no areas of standing water or saturated soil, nor any wetland-type vegetation. Also, no jurisdictional wetlands are recorded in the National Wetlands Inventory (USDI-USFWS 1995) at these sites.

### **4.8.2 CONSEQUENCES**

Potential impacts to biological resources are considered significant if the Proposed Action would:

- Affect a threatened or endangered species;
- Substantially diminish habitat for a plant or animal species;

- Substantially diminish a regionally or locally important plant or animal species;
- Interfere substantially with wildlife movement or reproductive behavior;
- Result in a substantial infusion of exotic plant or animal species; or
- Destroy, lose, or degrade jurisdictional wetlands (as defined by Section 404 of the CWA).

EO 11990, *Protection of Wetlands*, requires Federal agencies to avoid actions, to the extent practicable, which would result in the location of facilities in wetlands.

#### **4.8.2.1 Alternative 1**

Overall, potential impacts to biological resources from Alternative 1 would not be significant. Alternative 1 would have no overall effect on biodiversity or regional plant and animal populations, and there are no wetlands located at this site.

Construction of the proposed AFRC training building, OMS, unheated storage building, and parking areas would cause short-term impacts on the vegetation surrounding construction sites, but over the long term, existing vegetation around the sites would be expected to remain the same. Irreversible commitments of resources would include a small loss of vegetation in those areas that would not be replanted (that is, previously vegetated areas where buildings or pavement would be located). Any exposed soil resulting from the construction activities would be quickly stabilized with sod. BMPs for erosion control, topsoil management, and revegetation would be required and stated in the construction contract, and therefore potential effects would not be significant. The AFRC, OMS, unheated storage building, and parking areas would be built on land that has cleared areas, dirt roads, and urban debris which indicate there would not be any loss of undisturbed natural vegetation. Varying amounts of regrown wooded vegetation may have to be removed depending on the final site design. Potential impacts to natural vegetative communities would not be significant.

Generally, projects located in previously disturbed or industrial land use areas have little or no effect on migratory bird species. However, all projects and their site locations should plan for and identify the possible presence of migratory bird species. If migratory bird species are encountered, protection from either disturbance or removal of their habitat would be evaluated and measures taken to mitigate any habitat loss or to protect the species.

Construction of the AFRC and OMS may affect on-site wildlife through the long-term direct loss of a relatively small amount of habitat and direct mortality of individuals occurring in construction zones. These facilities would result in the direct long-term loss of approximately 11 acres of low productivity habitat for woodland and ground-dwelling or nesting species. Facility construction would result in loss of foraging and breeding habitat for some urban species.

Post-construction impacts to wildlife from operation of the AFRC and OMS would not be significant. Species currently using the Vo-Tech property are accustomed to humans and

their activity, and would return to the site area once construction activity and noise had abated.

In compliance with the ESA, consultation and coordination has been initiated with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and a copy of this consultation letter may be found in Appendix A, along with copies of scoping letters sent to the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, the Pennsylvania Game Commission, and the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission. Despite the absence of any sensitive species at this time, once the new AFRC facilities are in place and additional landscaping is complete, the Army will continue to periodically monitor the biological resources at the site. If any sensitive species are encountered in the future, the Army will follow-up with Federal and state regulatory agencies as appropriate.

#### **4.8.2.2 Alternative 2**

Overall, potential impacts to biological resources from Alternative 2 would not be significant. Alternative 2 would have no overall effect on biodiversity or regional plant and animal populations, and no wetlands are located at this site.

Due to the disturbed nature of the Marvine Business Park Site, construction of the proposed AFRC training building, OMS, unheated storage building, and parking areas would cause little additional impact on the vegetation surrounding construction sites. Over the long term, existing vegetation around the sites would be expected to improve due to landscaping and the termination of current mining activities. Irreversible commitments of resources would only be the loss of potential native vegetation regrowth in those areas where proposed buildings or pavement would be located. The potential for this regrowth is hindered by the impact on the natural soils by the residuals of mined materials found throughout the site. Any exposed soil resulting from the construction activities would be quickly stabilized with sod. BMPs for erosion control, topsoil management, and revegetation would be required and stated in the construction contract, and therefore potential effects would not be significant. The proposed facilities would be built on land that has been previously stripped mined and is currently undergoing initial development, so there would not be any loss of undisturbed natural vegetation. Varying amounts of grasses and weedy vegetation may have to be removed depending on the final site design. Potential impacts to natural vegetative communities would not be significant.

Generally, projects located in previously disturbed or industrial land use areas have little or no effect on migratory bird species. However, all projects and their site locations should plan for and identify the possible presence of migratory bird species. If migratory bird species are encountered, protection from either disturbance or removal of their habitat would be evaluated and measures taken to mitigate any habitat loss or to protect the species.

Construction of the AFRC and OMS may affect on-site wildlife through the long-term direct loss of a relatively small amount of habitat and direct mortality of individuals occurring in construction zones. These facilities would result in the direct long-term loss of approximately 11 acres of very low productivity habitat for ground-dwelling or nesting

species. Facility construction would result in loss of foraging and breeding habitat for some urban species.

Post-construction impacts to wildlife from operation of the AFRC and OMS would not be significant. Species currently using the Marvine Business Park Site are accustomed to humans and their activity, and would return to the site area once construction activity and noise had abated.

In compliance with the ESA, consultation and coordination has been initiated with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and a copy of this consultation letter may be found in Appendix A, along with copies of scoping letters sent to the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, the Pennsylvania Game Commission, and the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission. Despite the absence of any sensitive species at this time, once the new AFRC facilities are in place and additional landscaping is complete, the Army will continue to periodically monitor the biological resources at the site. If any sensitive species are encountered in the future, the Army will follow-up with Federal and state regulatory agencies as appropriate.

## **4.9 Cultural Resources**

### **4.9.1 AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT**

This section describes the existing cultural resource conditions in the area of the Vo-Tech and Marvine Business Park sites. The ROI for cultural resources is equivalent to the Area of Potential Effect (APE) of 25 acres which includes the property within and immediately adjacent to the proposed project areas that will be affected by the action, either during construction only or permanently. The prehistoric and historic background of the area is summarized first, followed by the status of cultural resource inventories and Section 106 consultations, and Native American resources.

#### **4.9.1.1 Prehistoric and Historic Background**

Prehistoric occupation of Pennsylvania covers circa (ca.) 14,000 to ca. 320 before present (BP) and is divided into three major periods: the Paleo-Indian Period (ca. 14,000 to 10,500 BP), the Archaic Period (ca. 10,500 to 3200 BP), and the Woodland Period (ca. 3200 to 320 BP). The Paleo-Indian Period is characterized by small groups of nomadic hunters and gatherers. The Archaic Period was warmer and wetter than the previous period, which resulted in an increasingly forested environment and a rise in sea levels. In response to these climatic changes, stone axes and fishing paraphernalia were used. Late Archaic sites are more common, which indicates an increase in population towards the end of the period. During the Woodland Period there was a shift from nomadic life to one that was more settled which allowed for an increased investment in craft and occupational specialization, social differentiation, development of extended trade relationships, intense exploitation of both hunted and gathered local resources, and the elaboration of technical change (most notably the adoption of ceramic containers for cooking and curation). The Woodland marked the last period before European occupation of the area.

Scranton, Pennsylvania in Lackawanna County represents an area inhabited by the Capoose Tribe of the Lenape Indians when the first Euro-American settlers arrived. The area between the townships of Providence and Pittston (approximately 10 miles) was first explored in 1753 and organized in 1770. Between the 1760s and 1780s Euro-American settlers from Connecticut and the Philadelphia region started coming to the valley and setting up blast furnaces and forges because of the rich iron ore deposits. Small communities slowly began to grow up around the forges in which one of these, Slocum Hollow, would evolve into the present City of Scranton. The region kept its rural agricultural economy as development was hindered by the difficulties of transportation through the mountains to outer coastal cities and ports. By the 1820s, entrepreneurs had realized the possibilities of anthracite coal as a more economical fuel than wood or charcoal. Development of gravity railroads to transport the coal led to a huge economic boom for Lackawanna County. An edged tool factory built in 1840 was located very near the Marvine Business Park Site, between Boulevard Avenue and the Lackawanna River. In the Industrial Revolution of the mid- to late-nineteenth century, the demand for coal skyrocketed and Scranton and Lackawanna County flourished. In 1878, Lackawanna County was established by a majority vote of its citizens making it the last of Pennsylvania's 67 counties to be formed. Being the County seat, Scranton continued to modernize and in the 1880s the first electric street car system in the United States was built in the city, earning Scranton the nickname "The Electric City". The production of anthracite coal peaked in 1918 and the Great Depression diminished the market for the coal and employment in the mines and railroads dwindled. By the end of World War II, the United States had shifted its fuel dependence toward oil and natural gas. The population of Lackawanna County began shrinking over the second half of the twentieth century; however, numerous marginal coal strip mining and culm bank reclamation projects have been undertaken in the last 50 years by the BAMR.

#### **4.9.1.2 Status of Cultural Resource Inventories and Section 106 Consultations**

A Phase I cultural resources survey of both sites was conducted (Brockington 2008). This survey included an archaeological reconnaissance and shovel testing survey completed at the Vo-Tech Site and a reconnaissance of the Marvine Business Park Site.

A pedestrian reconnaissance of the entire property was under taken at the Vo-Tech Site with transects walked at 10-meter intervals north-south across the entire lot as prescribed by the regulations of the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission (PHMC). No historic or prehistoric materials other than modern trash were identified. Following the visual survey of the site, shovel tests were excavated throughout the areas set aside for the AFRC, in the southern corner of the property. Despite the mining impacts throughout the site, shovel tests were surveyed in a 25-meter grid, as defined for areas of moderate potential for cultural resources by the PHMC. Transects were placed perpendicular to Rockwell Avenue, with the base line running along this street. These tests generally revealed bedrock and coal close to the surface, often under a thin veneer of organic matter or introduced top soils. Of the 187 shovel test locations examined during the survey, none were found to be positive for cultural materials.

As part of the cultural resources survey, background research was also conducted for both sites by reviewing the PHMC's archaeological site files. No previously recorded archaeological sites are located within a 1-mile radius of either site. Background research suggested that over 100 previously identified architectural resources have been documented within a 1-mile radius of the sites. A full architectural reconnaissance of these sites has been conducted. Based on the architectural survey, no portions of the neighborhoods around either the Vo-Tech or the Marvine sites constitute a historic district nor do any architectural properties lie within an area of potential visual effect. In summary, there were no archaeological sites or artifacts identified during the cultural resources survey within the project area or within a 1-mile radius of the project area.

There was active mining of coal silt at the time of the survey of the Marvine Business Park Site, between Olyphant and Boulevard avenues (north-south) and I-81 and Parker Street (east-west). The on-going mining has impacted the entire lot well below the depth at which cultural resources can be expected. Aside from secondary scrub brush around the perimeter of the lot, the entire area has been stripped to the exposed subsoils, bedrock, and loose coal and gravel. Further archaeological survey of this parcel, should it be chosen for the AFRC, is not warranted.

Section 110 of the NHPA requires Federal agencies to locate, inventory, and nominate to the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) all resources that are recommended eligible for inclusion on the NRHP. There are no NRHP-eligible or listed historic archaeological properties at either proposed project area.

Section 106 consultation and coordination has been initiated with the State Historic Preservation Office via the PHMC. This letter is included in Appendix A.

#### **4.9.1.3 Native American Resources**

No Native American concerns regarding the Proposed Action have been identified. Notification letters were sent to 14 federally recognized tribes regarding the Proposed Action. The tribes include Absentee-Shawnee Tribe of Indians of Oklahoma, Delaware Tribe of Western Oklahoma, Cayuga Nation of Indians, Onondaga Indian Nation, Oneida Indian Nation, Akwesasne Mohawk Nation, Tonawanda Band of Seneca, Tuscarora Nation, Seneca Nation of Indians, Oneida Tribe of Indians of Wisconsin, Stockbridge Munsee Community of Wisconsin, Delaware Tribe of Indians, Eastern Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma, and Seneca-Cayuga Tribe of Oklahoma. These letters are included in Appendix A.

#### **4.9.2 CONSEQUENCES**

Potential impacts to historic properties and/or archaeological resources are considered significant if the Proposed Action would:

- Physically destroy, damage, or alter all or part of the property;
- Physically destroy, damage, alter or remove items from archaeological contexts without a proper mitigation plan;

- Isolate the property from or alter the character of the property's setting when that character contributes to the property's qualification for the NRHP;
- Introduce visual, audible, or atmospheric elements that are out of character with the property or alter its setting;
- Neglect a property resulting in its deterioration or destruction; or
- Transfer, lease, or sell the property (36 CFR 800.9[b]) without a proper preservation plan.

#### **4.9.1.4 Alternative 1**

Overall potential impacts to cultural resources from Alternative 1 would not be significant. Alternative 1 would not affect any known NRHP-eligible archaeological or historical sites, and no such sites occur in the APE.

Based on the background study and field assessment, no NRHP-eligible historic properties are located within the project APE. Therefore, the Army has determined that no NRHP-eligible historic properties would be affected by the proposed construction of the Scranton AFRC at the Vo-Tech Site as per 36 CFR 800.4(d).

If, during construction, any potential historic or archaeological resource is uncovered or inadvertent discoveries are made of Native American human remains and associated funerary objects, sacred objects, or objects of cultural patrimony, the Cultural Resources Manager for the 99<sup>th</sup> RSC would be contacted, in accordance with typical standard operating procedures for the accidental discovery of archaeological resources or Native American artifacts.

If the federally recognized tribes contacted in connection with this undertaking respond and raise concerns regarding issues of importance to the respective tribes, the 99<sup>th</sup> RSC will address these concerns as soon as practical.

#### **4.9.1.5 Alternative 2**

Overall potential impacts to cultural resources from Alternative 2 would not be significant. Impacts to cultural resources for Alternative 2 would be the same as for Alternative 1.

If, during construction, any potential historic or archaeological resource is uncovered or inadvertent discoveries are made of Native American human remains and associated funerary objects, sacred objects, or objects of cultural patrimony, the Cultural Resources Manager for the 99<sup>th</sup> RSC would be contacted, in accordance with typical standard operating procedure for the accidental discovery of archaeological resources or Native American artifacts.

If the federally recognized tribes contacted in connection with this undertaking respond and raise concerns regarding issues of importance to the respective tribes, the 99<sup>th</sup> RSC will address these concerns as soon as practical.

#### 4.9.1.6 No Action Alternative

Under the No Action Alternative, no changes or impacts would occur to cultural and archaeological resources.

### 4.10 Socioeconomics

#### 4.10.1 AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

This section describes the existing socioeconomic conditions for the City of Scranton and Lackawanna County, Pennsylvania. The City of Scranton, located in Lackawanna County, Pennsylvania, would provide necessary goods and services for AFRC personnel, including food, gasoline, and miscellaneous supplies. The ROI for socioeconomics includes the City of Scranton and Lackawanna County, Pennsylvania. Socioeconomic factors include economic development, demographics, housing, quality of life, environmental justice, and protection of children.

##### 4.10.1.1 Economic Development

Table 4-4 presents economic development statistics for the Scranton-Wilkes-Barre metropolitan area which includes Lackawanna, Luzerne, and Wyoming Counties. If information was available for Lackawanna County, it is presented separately.

**Table 4-4.** Economic Development Statistics in the ROI.

Statistic	Scranton-Wilkes-Barre Metropolitan Statistical Area	Lackawanna County
Employment <sup>1</sup> - nonfarm (September 2008)	262,700	100,400
Unemployment rate <sup>1</sup> (September 2008)	5.9 %	5.7 %
Median income <sup>1</sup> (2007)	\$34,240	NA
Cost of Living Index <sup>2</sup> (2008)	87.7 % (City of Scranton, only)	88.4 %

NA not available

SOURCES: 1 Bureau of Labor Statistics 2008; 2 City-Data.com 2008

The largest occupational group in the Scranton-Wilkes-Barre Metropolitan Statistical Area in 2006 was office and administrative support with 46,020 workers, or 18.0 percent of the workforce. The share of workers in office and administrative occupations was not measurably different from the national average. Sales and related jobs comprised the second-largest major occupational grouping in the metropolitan area with 29,680 workers or 11.6-percent of the workforce, higher than the group's 11.1-percent share nationwide.

In addition to the sales and related jobs group, the transportation and material moving, production, healthcare practitioner and technical, healthcare support, and community and social services occupational groups all had above average employment shares in Scranton. In contrast, 13 occupational groups in the Scranton area had significantly smaller employment shares than in the nation as a whole. Among these groups were management; construction and extraction; business and financial operations; computer and mathematical; education, training, and library; and architecture and engineering occupations.

### 4.10.1.2 Demographics

Unlike the Bureau of Labor and Statistics, the U.S. Census Bureau presents data for the City of Scranton and data for Lackawanna County. Table 4-5 presents the demographics of Scranton and Lackawanna County.

**Table 4-5.** Demographics for the ROI.

Demographic <sup>1</sup>	Scranton	Lackawanna County
Population	72,485	209,330
Minority population	7.3 %	4.6 %
Poverty level	10.6 %	8.1 %

SOURCE: U.S. Census Bureau 2008

### 4.10.1.3 Housing

The U.S. Census for the year 2007 identifies Scranton as having a total of about 34,400 housing units. This number is calculated by adding renter-occupied housing units (16,200), owner-occupied housing units (13,500), and vacant units (4,700). The median value of houses in Scranton was \$109,200, and the median monthly rent was about \$560 (U.S. Census Bureau 2007).

The U.S. Census for the year 2007 identifies Lackawanna County as having a total of about 97,000 housing units. This number is calculated by adding renter-occupied housing units (57,000), owner-occupied housing units (30,000), and vacant units (10,000). The median value of houses in Lackawanna County was \$134,400, and the median monthly rent was about \$600 (U.S. Census Bureau 2007).

### 4.10.1.4 Quality of Life

Quality of life is discussed in terms of public safety and medical services, schools, and recreation.

**Public safety and medical services.** The City of Scranton operates a total of eight fire stations located within the 26-square-mile city boundary. The Bureau of Fire employs 150 firefighters full time and the headquarters is located on Mulberry Street. During a normal tour, there are 10 apparatus and one command vehicle in service (City of Scranton 2008a).

The Scranton Police Department headquarters is located on South Washington Avenue near downtown Scranton and the city's south side. The Police Department provides police protection through three regular patrol shifts. Each shift has a minimum of 26 officers, as well as two corporals, four sergeants, and one lieutenant. These shifts provide 24-hour protection to the City of Scranton. Community Development, Canine Units, and other special units complement the services provided by regular patrol units (City of Scranton 2008b).

Two private companies, Community Life Support and Lackawanna Ambulance, provide emergency medical services. The city requires that only Advanced Life Support units

respond to emergencies, which include a crew of paramedics and an emergency medical technician. Ambulances are dispatched by an advanced global positioning system which allows the public safety dispatcher to send the closest ambulance to the scene of the emergency. There are three hospitals in the area. Mercy Hospital has 328 beds; Moses Taylor hospital has 230 beds (Hospital-Data.com 2008); and Community Medical Center, which also serves as a trauma center, has 283 beds (U.S. News 2008). Moses Taylor hospital in Dunmore is the closest hospital to both sites.

**Schools.** There are 13 elementary schools (grades K-5), three intermediate schools (grades 6-8), and two high schools (grades 9-12) within the Scranton School District. There are also a number of private sectarian and non-sectarian schools providing pre-kindergarten to 12<sup>th</sup> grade education. The Scranton State School for the Deaf offers grades K-12 (School Tree 2008). The Career Technology Center of Lackawanna County is adjacent to the Vo-Tech Site. The closest school to the Marvine Business Park Site is Saint Clare's School, located more than 0.5 mile away.

Higher education in Lackawanna County is as follows: Baptist Bible College, Clarks Summit; Johnson College, Scranton; Keystone College, La Plume; Lackawanna College, Scranton; Marywood University, Scranton; Penn State Worthington Campus, Scranton; and the University of Scranton, Scranton (Scranton Chamber of Commerce 2008).

**Recreation.** The Pocono Mountain region provides a multitude of recreational facilities and activities for all seasons. Northeastern Pennsylvania has over 475 square miles of state parks, forests, and game lands. In Lackawanna County, Lackawanna State Park provides recreational activities including biking, hiking, fishing, hunting, and golfing, and seasonal activities such as cross-country skiing, snowmobiling, and snowboarding (Scranton Chamber of Commerce 2008).

#### **4.10.1.5 Environmental Justice**

Environmental justice is the fair treatment for people of all races, cultures, and incomes, regarding the development and implementation (or lack thereof) of environmental laws, regulations, and policies. EO 12898, *Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low Income Populations*, directs federal agencies to address environmental and human health conditions in minority and low-income communities. A memorandum from former President Clinton concerning EO 12898 stated that federal agencies would collect and analyze information concerning a project's effects on minorities or low-income groups when required by NEPA. If such investigations find that minority or low-income groups experience a disproportionate adverse effect, then avoidance or mitigation measures are necessary.

Approximately 10 percent of families and 12 percent of the population of Pennsylvania were below the poverty level in 2006. In Scranton, about 10 percent of families and 17 percent of the population were below the poverty level in 2006, including 17.5 percent of those under age 18 and 13 percent of those aged 65 or over (U.S. Census Bureau 2008). In Lackawanna County, about 8 percent of families and 13 percent of the population were below the poverty level in 2006, including 17 percent of those under age 18 and 10

percent of those aged 65 or over (U.S. Census Bureau 2008). In 2007, the poverty guideline for a family of four was an annual income of \$20,650 in the 48 contiguous states and Washington, D.C.; for a family of three, it was \$17,170 (U.S. Department of Health and Human Services 2007).

The minority population of Pennsylvania is approximately 15 percent. The minority population of Scranton is 7.3 percent and of Lackawanna County is 3.8 percent.

#### **4.10.1.6 Protection of Children**

EO 13045, *Protection of Children from Environmental Health and Safety Risks*, requires Federal agencies, to the extent permitted by law and mission, to identify and assess environmental health and safety risks that might disproportionately affect children.

The Army takes special precautions for the safety of children, including the use of fencing, limitations on access to certain areas, and provision of adult supervision.

#### **4.10.2 CONSEQUENCES**

Potential socioeconomic impacts are considered significant if the Proposed Action would cause:

- Substantial gains or losses in population and/or employment; or
- Disequilibrium in the housing market, such as severe housing shortages or surpluses, resulting in substantial property value changes.

Potential environmental justice impacts are considered significant if the Proposed Action would cause disproportionate effects on low-income and/or minority populations. Potential impacts to protection of children are considered significant if the Proposed Action would cause disproportionate effects on children.

##### **4.10.2.1 Alternative 1**

Overall, potential socioeconomic impacts from Alternative 1 would not be significant. Alternative 1 would cause beneficial short-term impacts during construction and beneficial long-term impacts upon completion.

The Proposed Action includes the construction of the following facilities:

- 117,832-square-foot AFRC training building
- 7,423-square-foot OMS
- 4,500-square-foot unheated storage building

The Army estimates that construction would begin in April 2009 and would be completed by April 2011. The economic effects of the construction phase of the Proposed Action were estimated using the Economic Impact Forecast System (EIFS) model, a computer based economic tool that calculates multipliers to estimate the direct and indirect effects resulting from a given action. Changes in spending and employment associated with the construction represent the direct effects of the action. Based on the input data and

calculated multipliers, the model estimates changes in sales volume, income, employment, and population in the ROI, accounting for the direct and indirect effects of the action. For purposes of this analysis, a change is considered significant if it falls outside the historical range of ROI economic variation. To determine the historical range of economic variation, the EIFS model calculates a rational threshold value (RTV) profile for the ROI. This analytical process uses historical data for the ROI and calculates fluctuations in sales volume, income, employment, and population patterns. The historical extremes for the ROI become the thresholds of significance (i.e., the RTVs) for social and economic change. If the estimated effect of an action falls above the positive RTV or below the negative RTV, the effect is considered to be significant. For this analysis, the ROI is Lackawanna County, Pennsylvania and the change in local expenditures refers to the estimated construction spending for the new AFRC.

Based on an input of expenditures of \$32 million to the EIFS model, the Proposed Action would generate about 166 direct and 305 indirect jobs in the economic ROI during construction activities. This increase in employment would represent a 0.4 percent increase in the region's employment levels and would fall short of the positive RTV of 2.15 percent to make any significant positive difference. It should be noted that the increased employment and any other economic benefits associated with construction would only be short-term and would be spread out over the lifespan of the project construction. The Proposed Action would also generate positive changes in the other economic indicators estimated by the EIFS model, including a 1.06 percent increase in sales volume, and a 0.36 percent increase in regional personal income. However, these increases are very minor and do not exceed the positive RTVs for their respective categories, and are therefore not significant. The EIFS model output for the proposed BRAC actions at Scranton may be found in Appendix B.

Since incoming personnel under the Proposed Action would be coming from the Serrenti Memorial United States Army Reserve Center in Scranton, Pennsylvania, Serrenti Memorial United States Army Reserve Organizational Maintenance Shop in Scranton, Pennsylvania, and the United States Army Reserve Center in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania, and would be at the new Scranton AFRC only for weekend training, there would be no influx of personnel on a permanent basis into the ROI. The 42 permanent administrative personnel are personnel that would be relocated from the Serrenti Memorial facility in Scranton and the Army Reserve Center in Wilkes-Barre. The maximum use of the facility would be about 680 members per weekend. These members are currently using the facilities in Scranton and Wilkes-Barre. No significant economic impact in the ROI would be expected during the operations phase of the Proposed Action.

There would be no environmental justice impacts at Scranton or in the surrounding area, as impacts from the Proposed Action identified in this EA would not be localized or placed primarily on minority and/or low-income populations.

There would be no environmental health and safety risks that might disproportionately affect children, because children are restricted from the areas proposed for construction and operation of the OMS, and an unheated storage building.

#### **4.10.2.2 Alternative 2**

Overall, potential socioeconomic impacts from Alternative 2 would not be significant. Socioeconomic impacts for Alternative 2 would be the same as for Alternative 1.

#### **4.10.2.3 No Action Alternative**

Under the No Action Alternative there would be no changes to existing socioeconomic conditions within the ROI.

### **4.11 Transportation**

#### **4.11.1 AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT**

This section describes the existing transportation conditions at and surrounding the Vo-Tech and Marvine Business Park sites. Roadways and traffic are discussed first, followed by public transportation.

##### **4.11.1.1 Roadways and Traffic**

The Marvine Business Park and Vo-Tech sites are located south of Interstate 476 (I-476) at the point where it meets Interstate 81 (I-81)/State Highway 6, which is also referred to as the Grand Army of the Republic Highway. Access to both sites is via Exit 190 on I-81 North onto Main Street and then through residential areas. No level of service data are available for the roadways used to access either site.

There are multiple residential area streets off Main Street which may be used to reach the Vo-Tech Site. All the local residential roads are maintained by the City of Scranton's Department of Public Works (City of Scranton 2008c). The major ones, for which Annual Average Daily Traffic (AADT) volumes were found, are Market Street with a 2006 AADT volume of 8,800 and Rockwell Avenue with a 2006 AADT volume of 100 (PennDOT 2008). After exiting the residential areas, the Vo-Tech Site is located north of Rockwell Avenue at the point where it crosses I-81. A bridge, which is part of Rockwell Avenue, once crossed I-81, but has been closed and is not scheduled to be reopened.

The Marvine Business Park Site can be reached by making a right turn on Main Street and another right turn onto Boulevard Avenue. Boulevard Avenue is maintained by the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation. The site is located south of Boulevard Avenue at the point where it crosses I-81. Parker Street initially runs through a residential area and later through businesses just before it intersects Boulevard Avenue. Both Parker Street and Boulevard Avenue had a 2006 AADT volume of 3,700 (PennDOT 2008).

##### **4.11.1.2 Public Transportation**

Scranton's provider of public transportation is the County of Lackawanna Transit System (COLTS). COLTS' buses provide extensive service within the city. A major bus route runs along North Main Street (COLTS 2007).

## 4.11.2 CONSEQUENCES

Potential impacts to transportation are evaluated with respect to the potential for the Proposed Action to:

- Disrupt or improve current transportation patterns and systems;
- Deteriorate or improve existing levels of service; and
- Change existing levels of safety.

### 4.11.2.1 Alternative 1

During the construction phase of this Alternative, a temporary increase in vehicular traffic through the residential areas located on the route between Exit 190 of I-81 and the Vo-Tech Site on Rockwell Avenue is expected. The site preparation required for the 25-acre site would also require the movement of heavy trucks and equipment through the residential areas.

After the completion of construction, the number of private vehicles using the residential roads between Exit 190 on I-81 and the Vo-Tech Site to access the 1000-member AFRC on weekends is expected to increase, even with the use of carpools and public transportation by members of the AFRC. The facility would employ approximately 42 permanent full-time personnel. The maximum expected use of the new facility would be about 680 members per weekend, and there would be parking for 544 privately-owned vehicles (taking into account those who would carpool or use public transportation). This would result in increased daily traffic volume of approximately 500 percent, especially on weekends. Also, some of the AFRC-owned HMMWVs, semi tractors, commercial cars and trucks, as well as flat bed, cargo, and specialty trailers at the site would be expected to be staged and moved as a convoy for off-site training. The movements of these AFRC vehicles would result in occasional long-term impacts to local traffic.

Most of the long-term impacts would be experienced on Rockwell Avenue, which had a 2006 AADT volume of only 100. Currently, the Rockwell Avenue Bridge which crosses I-81 is closed on the eastern side of the highway. Under this Alternative, reopening the bridge would provide easier access to the Vo-Tech Site. This could lessen long-term impacts by reducing the amount of traffic which flows through the residential areas around the Vo-Tech Site.

### 4.11.2.2 Alternative 2

Overall, locating the proposed AFRC at the Marvine Business Park Site is expected to result in slight long-term impacts to transportation.

During the construction phase, a temporary increase in vehicular traffic through the residential areas located on the route between Exit 190 of I-81 and the Marvine Business Park Site on Boulevard Avenue is expected. The site preparation required for the 25-acre site would also require the movement of heavy trucks and equipment through the residential areas.

After the completion of construction, the number of private vehicles using the residential roads between Exit 190 on I-81 and the Marvine Business Park Site would increase about 15 percent in AADT volumes during weekends on Boulevard Avenue. Also, occasionally, some of the AFRC-owned HMMWVs, semi tractors, commercial cars and trucks, as well as flat bed, cargo, and specialty trailers at the site are expected to be staged and moved as a convoy for off-site training. The movements of these AFRC vehicles are expected to result in occasional slight long-term impacts to local traffic. A Highway Occupancy Permit (driveway permit) would probably be required upon development of the site.

#### **4.11.2.3 No Action Alternative**

Under the No Action Alternative, no changes or impacts would occur to transportation.

### **4.12 Utilities**

#### **4.12.1 AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT**

This section describes existing utilities at the Vo-Tech and Marvine Business Park sites. In general, the utility systems are classified as distribution and collection systems including water, sanitary sewer, storm drainage, electrical, natural gas, and industrial wastewater. Communication systems and solid waste disposal are also discussed in this section. Based on observations from site surveys conducted in April 2008 and September 2008, all utilities for the Vo-Tech Site would have to be extended from nearby connection points, while all utilities would be available at the Marvine Business Park Site. These major utilities (water, sewer, natural gas, electricity, and communications) would be provided by local municipal and commercial utility entities.

##### **4.12.1.1 Potable Water Supply**

Potable water can be defined as water fit for drinking, being free from contamination and not containing a sufficient quantity of saline material to be regarded as a mineral water. There are no known drinking water or irrigation supply wells located on the Vo-Tech and Marvine Business Park sites. Water at the Marvine Business Park Site and the nearby connection points close to the Vo-Tech Site is provided by PA American Water Company which obtains its water from 42 active, back-up, and emergency surface sources (reservoirs, lakes, and intakes) with a combined storage capacity of 20 billion gallons. The estimated safe yield from its treatment plants is 96,000,000 gallons per day with daily and peak daily usage volumes of 49,700,000 gallons and 78,000,000 gallons respectively. PA American Water serves 63,000 customers (connections), 92 percent of which are residential customers, 7 percent are commercial and 1 percent are institutional customers (PA American Water Company 2008).

##### **4.12.1.2 Wastewater System**

Nearby sanitary sewer system connection points exist close to the Vo-Tech and Marvine Business Park sites. Disposal is provided by the Scranton Sewer Authority, which serves the cities of Scranton and Dunmore. The Authority is a 25-million-gallon-per-day wastewater treatment plant that provides service to over 30,000 customers. It also owns

and maintains over 275 miles of collection and interceptor sewers. The treatment plant has a reserve capacity of between 5 and 10 million gallons per day (SSA 2008).

#### **4.12.1.3 Storm Water System**

Runoff from precipitation at the Vo-Tech Site generally flows west towards Leggetts Creek, which is located west of the site, approximately 0.5 mile away. It is not known whether the facilities adjacent to the Vo-Tech Site have a storm sewer. Runoff from precipitation from the Marvine Business Park Site generally flows to the west. The Marvine Business Park Site currently has a storm sewer system in place.

#### **4.12.1.4 Energy Sources**

Electricity and natural gas connection points exist close to the Vo-Tech Site and are available on site at the Marvine Business Park Site. Electricity for either site would be provided by PPL Electric Utilities, which serves a 29-county area covering the north and central portions of eastern Pennsylvania. According to the company's website, their industrial clients use an average of 200,000 kilowatt hours of electricity per month (PPL 2008). The Pennsylvania generation plants reported a total capacity of approximately 9,000 megawatts in 2007 (Reuters.com 2008). Natural gas for either site would be provided by UGI Penn Natural Gas (formerly PG Energy). UGI Penn Natural Gas serves approximately 478,000 customers in eastern and northeastern Pennsylvania through its distribution system of approximately 7,800 miles of gas mains. The system throughput (the total volume of gas sold to or transported for customers within the gas utility's distribution system) for fiscal year 2007 was approximately 131.8 billion cubic feet (Computer Business Review 2008).

#### **4.12.1.5 Communication**

Communication lines and systems connection points exist close to the Vo-Tech Site and are available on-site at the Marvine Business Park Site. Verizon Communications-Pennsylvania and Commonwealth Telephone Enterprises provide communication services in the area. Both companies offer a full array of technologically advanced data and voice telecommunication products and services, including broadband data services and high-speed Internet access, delivered over 100 percent digitally switched, fiber-rich networks.

#### **4.12.1.6 Solid Waste**

Solid waste collection and disposal services in the City of Scranton are provided by private waste management companies. Two such companies are J. P. Mascaro and Sons and Republic Services, Inc. both of whom offer complete trash and recycling services for residences, including bulky items and yard waste. Two landfills, Keystone Sanitary Landfill, Inc. and Alliance Sanitary Landfill are located within 3 to 4 miles of both the Vo-Tech and Marvine Business Park sites. Both facilities accept household municipal waste, construction/demolition waste, and commercial office/lunchroom waste from a non-manufacturing facility. With prior approval the Keystone landfill also accepts manufacturing waste, wastewater treatment sludge, processed infectious waste, agricultural and mining waste, soils contaminated with unused fuel, and asbestos-

containing waste. The permitted maximum daily capacity of the Keystone Landfill is 5,000 tons and its maximum daily quarterly average is 4,750 tons. Based on average and projected volumes, Keystone has a life expectancy well in excess of 20 years (Keystone 2005). Alliance Sanitary Landfill has a permitted maximum daily capacity of 5,500 tons. Its maximum daily quarterly average is 2000 tons and is currently operating below 50 percent of its permitted capacity.

Lackawanna's Solid Waste Authority also operates a first-class recycling center in Scranton, which is located about 2 miles from the Vo-Tech Site and 1 mile from the Marvine Business Park Site.

#### **4.12.2 CONSEQUENCES**

Effects on infrastructure are considered in terms of increases in demands on systems and the ability of existing systems to meet those demands. Potential effects to the environment could occur if the existing systems are insufficient to handle the increased demands requiring construction and operation of a new system. Utility demands include both construction and operations usage. Utility demands during the operations of the Proposed Action are based on the additional facility square footage and personnel requirements. Individual segments that comprise the totality of the infrastructure are discussed below.

Potential impacts to the potable water system are considered significant if the Proposed Action would:

- Reduce potable water availability;
- Disrupt potable water distribution systems;
- Change water demands that affect regional potable supplies; or
- Generate contaminants that cause negative effects on water quality.

Potential impacts to the wastewater system are considered significant if the Proposed Action would:

- Cause additional inflow and infiltration and increased loads on wastewater treatment that cannot be adequately treated; or
- Change wastewater composition that would alter wastewater treatment processes or consistently cause upsets of the wastewater treatment system.

Potential impacts to storm water conveyance systems are considered significant if the Proposed Action would:

- Cause flow obstructions and increases to the storm water drainage system;
- Accelerate deterioration of the storm water drainage system; or
- Cause long-term interruptions of storm water drainage system components.

Potential impacts to the electrical systems are considered significant if the Proposed Action would:

- Change regional electricity demands requiring major new components such as transmission lines, transformers, and substations; or
- Cause long-term disruptions in available electrical services.

Potential impacts to natural gas systems are considered significant if the Proposed Action would:

- Cause unsafe, inadequate, or noncompliant temporary or long-term storage or distribution systems; or
- Cause unreliable distribution of natural gas that cannot meet the mission and support requirements.

Potential impacts to solid waste are considered significant if the Proposed Action would increase solid waste such that it overwhelms local landfills.

#### **4.12.2.1 Alternative 1**

Overall, potential impacts to utilities from Alternative 1 would not be significant. Alternative 1 is not expected to reduce potable water availability, disrupt potable water distribution systems, or change significantly the water demands that affect regional potable water quality or supplies

Alternative 1 is not expected to cause additional inflow and infiltration and increased loads on the wastewater treatment nor change the wastewater composition as the activities under the Proposed Action are the relocation of existing facilities and thus do not represent an influx of new activities. Therefore no adverse impacts to the wastewater system would result from carrying out this alternative.

Short-term obstruction to flow in the adjacent storm water conveyance systems may occur but only during the construction phase and the effects on the storm water drainage system and its components are not expected to be significant.

Both electric service and natural gas lines would have to be extended to the Vo-Tech Site from nearby connection points. No disruption of electrical services or the natural gas system would be expected.

Communication lines would have to be extended to the Vo-Tech Site when the AFRC becomes operational.

Alternative 1 would generate solid waste during the construction phase and during the operational phase of the AFRC. However, the increase is not expected to be significant to overwhelm local landfills. Solid waste at the Vo-Tech Site would be managed according to the requirements of 40 CFR Parts 240 through 244, 257, 258, the Solid Waste Programs managed by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, and Army Regulation 200-1. Lackawanna County operates a recycling program implemented and managed by the Lackawanna County Solid Waste Management Authority.

#### **4.12.2.2 Alternative 2**

Overall, potential impacts to utilities from Alternative 2 would not be significant. Impacts to utilities from Alternative 2 would be the same as for Alternative 1.

#### **4.12.2.3 No Action Alternative**

Under the No Action Alternative, no changes or impacts would occur to utility systems.

### **4.13 Hazardous and Toxic Substances**

#### **4.13.1 AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT**

This section addresses current hazardous and toxic substances at the Vo-Tech and Marvine Business Park sites.

##### **4.13.1.1 Hazardous Materials**

For purposes of this EA, hazardous materials are those regulated under Federal, state, DoD, and Army regulations. Hazardous materials are required to be handled, managed, treated, or stored properly by trained personnel under the following regulations: Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) Hazardous Communication, 29 CFR 1900.1200 and 29 CFR 1926.59; and Department of Transportation Hazardous Materials, 49 CFR 172.101; EPA, 40 CFR 260 et seq. (OSHA 2006). Currently, no hazardous materials are used at either the Vo-Tech or Marvine Business Park site.

As reported in the Management Summary of the Environmental Condition of Property Report, a discussion with Pennsylvania BAMR personnel revealed the following concerns for both the Vo-Tech and the Marvine Business Park sites:

- When the surface mines are backfilled, overburden and tailings from the mine as well as off-site materials are commonly used.
- Mining equipment or other materials are often buried in place.
- The fill material is not typically compacted.

This poses two concerns – the unknown nature of the fill material and the geotechnical aspect of subsidence (a common occurrence in northeastern Pennsylvania). There is also the potential for acid mine drainage from abandoned mines (Vo-Tech) as well as the active mining activities at the Marvine Business Park Site. The Marvine Business Park Site has numerous large piles of coal and tailings on the site.

##### **4.13.1.2 Hazardous Waste Disposal**

The nearest location for disposal of hazardous waste is the NHD Waste Services, which is located about 20 miles from the proposed sites in Dunmore, Pennsylvania.

#### **4.13.2 CONSEQUENCES**

Potential impacts to hazardous materials management are considered significant if the Proposed Action would:

- Result in noncompliance with applicable Federal and state regulations; or

- Increase the amounts generated or procured hazardous materials beyond current permitted capacities or management capabilities.

#### **4.13.2.1 Alternative 1**

Overall, potential impacts to hazardous and toxic substances management from Alternative 1 would not be significant. Quantities of hazardous materials appropriate for facility and vehicle maintenance would be stored and used at the property. Hazardous materials stored and used at the site would be handled, managed, treated, or stored properly by trained personnel under the following regulations: OSHA Hazardous Communication, 29 CFR 1900.1200 and 29 CFR 1926.59; and Department of Transportation Hazardous Materials, 49 CFR 172.101; EPA, 40 CFR 260 et seq. (OSHA 2006).

Small quantities of hazardous wastes would be generated primarily from vehicle maintenance activities, such as parts degreasing. The facility may be considered a conditionally exempt small quantity generator. If that occurs, the Army would be required to apply for an EPA Identification Number. Disposal would be by commercial vendor. An SPCC Plan would be prepared as the facility is constructed. Procedures in this plan would be followed to properly manage spills. The management of any such hazardous materials or waste will be consistent with the manner in which such materials and waste are presently managed at the existing U.S. Army Reserve facilities in Scranton and Wilkes-Barre, in full compliance with Federal, state and local requirements.

#### **4.13.2.2 Alternative 2**

Overall, potential impacts to hazardous and toxic substances management from Alternative 2 would not be significant. Impacts to hazardous and toxic substances management from Alternative 2 would be the same as for Alternative 1.

#### **4.13.2.3 No Action Alternative**

Under the No Action Alternative, no impacts would occur to hazardous and toxic substances.

### **4.14 Cumulative Effects**

Cumulative effects are those environmental impacts that result from the incremental effects of other past, present, or reasonably foreseeable future actions when combined with the Proposed Action. CEQ regulations stipulate that the cumulative effects analysis within an EA consider the potential environmental impacts resulting from the “incremental impacts of the action when added to other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions regardless of what agency or person undertakes such actions” (40 CFR 1508.7). Cumulative impacts can result from individually minor, but collectively substantial, actions undertaken over a period of time by various agencies (Federal, state, and local) or individuals.

The scope of the cumulative effect analysis involves evaluating impacts to environmental resources by geographic extent of the effects and the time frame in which the effects are

expected to occur. Past, present, and reasonably foreseeable actions are identified first, followed by the cumulative effects that could result from these actions when combined with the Proposed Action.

Both sites have been historically used for mining activities. Impacts from past mining activities are included in the affected environment descriptions in Section 4.0 for each resource area. Currently, there are active mining operations at the Marvine Business Park Site, which include extracting coal and coal sediments from the remaining onsite material. Concurrent with the mining operations, the site is being graded to encourage development. Besides the ongoing mining operations at the Marvine Business Park Site, no other current or future development at the Vo-Tech or Marvine Business Park sites is known. If the AFRC is constructed at the Marvine Business Park Site, mining activities would terminate. No past, present, or reasonably foreseeable actions in the ROI have been identified that would combine with the Proposed Action to cause additional impacts. Therefore, no cumulative effects would occur.

#### **4.15 Mitigation Summary**

Mitigation measures are actions required for the specific purpose of reducing the significant environmental impacts of implementing a proposed or alternative action. An EA may specify mitigation measures that, if implemented, would prevent significant impacts that would otherwise require an environmental impact statement. No mitigation measures are required for the Proposed Action discussed in this EA because resulting impacts would not meet the significance criteria described in this EA; that is, the impacts would not be significant.

## 5.0 FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

Direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts of Alternative 1, Alternative 2, and the No Action Alternative have been considered. Either alternative would allow the Army to efficiently provide administrative, educational, assembly, library, learning center, vault, weapons simulator, and physical fitness areas for Army Reserve and Pennsylvania Army National Guard personnel. The Army Reserve units to be housed at the new AFRC are: Det 1 858 MD CO; 220 MP DET; 412 EN CO (Vert); and PLT 2 233 QM CO. The Army National Guard units to be housed at the new AFRC are HQ 55; 55 BTB; MI-55; Sig-55; H(-)109; and B/228. No significant adverse impacts were identified. In the case of aesthetics and visual resources and socioeconomics, beneficial impacts were identified under Alternatives 1 and 2. Increased weekend traffic would be less disruptive under Alternative 2.

Therefore, the issuance of a FNSI is warranted and preparation of an environmental impact statement is not required. Implementation of the No Action Alternative is not feasible because the BRAC actions are required by law to be implemented.

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## 9.0 PERSONS CONSULTED

Persons and agencies that were contacted for information for this EA are listed in this section regardless of whether a response was received.

Mr. William Capouillez  
Chief, Environmental Planning and Land  
Management  
Pennsylvania Game Commission  
2001 Elmerton Avenue  
Harrisburg, PA 17110-9797

Mr. Robert Chicks  
President  
Stockbridge Munsee Community of Wisconsin  
N8476 Mo He Con Nuck Road  
Bowler, WI 54416

Mr. Scott J. Christman  
Conservation Officer  
Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission  
Northeast Region  
P.O. Box 88  
Sweet Valley, PA 18656

Mr. Gerald Danforth  
Chairperson  
Oneida Tribe of Indians of Wisconsin  
P.O. Box 365  
Oneida, WI 54155-0365

Mr. De Ketchum  
Chief  
Delaware Tribe of Indians  
220 NW Virginia Avenue  
Bartlesville, OK 74001

Mr. James Edwards  
Governor  
Absentee-Shawnee Tribe of Indians of  
Oklahoma  
2025 S. Gordon Cooper Drive  
Shawnee, OK 74801

Mr. Charles D. Enyart  
Chief  
Eastern Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma  
P.O. Box 350  
Seneca, MO 64865

Ms. Barbara Franco  
State Historic Preservation Officer  
Pennsylvania Historical and Museum  
Commission  
300 North Street  
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Mr. Bruce Gonzalez  
President  
Delaware Tribe of Western Oklahoma  
P.O. Box 825  
Anadarko, OK 73005

Mr. Ray Halbritter  
Representative  
Oneida Indian Nation  
Genesee Street  
Ames Plaza Oneida, NY 13421

Mr. Leo R. Henry  
Chief  
Tuscarora Nation  
2006 Mt. Hope Road  
Lewistown, NY 14092

Mr. LeRoy Howard  
Chief  
Seneca-Cayuga Tribe of Oklahoma  
P.O. Box 1283  
Miami, OK 74355

Mr. Vernon Isaac  
Chief  
Cayuga Nation of Indians  
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Versailles, NY 14168

Mr. Don King  
City Planner  
340 North Washington Avenue  
Scranton, PA 18503

Mr. Chris Matthews  
Department of Public Works  
340 North Washington Avenue  
Scranton, PA 18503

Mr. Marvin Moriarty  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
Region 5  
300 Westgate Center Drive  
Hadley, MA 01035-9589

Mr. Justin Newell  
Environmental Review Specialist  
Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and  
Natural Resources  
Pennsylvania Natural Diversity Inventory  
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Traffic Signals Division  
Pennsylvania Department of Transportation  
Maintenance District 4-2  
Morgan Highway & W. Grove Street  
Clarks Summit, PA 18411

Mr. Irving Powless, Jr.  
Chief  
Onondaga Indian Nation  
RR#1, Box 319-B  
Nedrow, NY 13120

Mr. Cyrus Schindler  
President  
Seneca Nation of Indians  
1490 Route 438  
Irving, NY 14081

Ms. Hilda Smoke  
Chief  
Akwesasne Mohawk Nation  
412 State Route 37  
Hogansburg, NY 13655

Mr. Emerson Webster  
Chief  
Tonawanda Band of Seneca  
7027 Meadville Road  
Basom, NY 14013

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*Environmental Assessment for Construction of an  
Armed Forces Reserve Center and  
Implementation of BRAC 05 Recommendations at  
Scranton, Pennsylvania*

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*APPENDIX A*

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**CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION**

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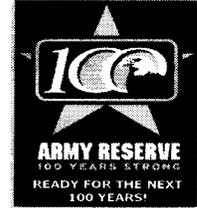
## **APPENDIX A. CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION**

This appendix contains the following consultation and coordination letters:

- Letters sent to the State Historic Preservation Office dated December 19, 2008 and February 6, 2009
- Letter sent to the Absentee-Shawnee Tribe of Indians of Oklahoma dated December 19, 2008
- Letter sent to the Akwesasne Mohawk Nation dated December 19, 2008
- Letter sent to the Cayuga Nation of Indians dated December 19, 2008
- Letter sent to the Delaware Tribe of Indians dated December 19, 2008
- Letter sent to the Delaware Tribe of Western Oklahoma dated December 19, 2008
- Letter sent to the Eastern Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma dated December 19, 2008
- Letter sent to the Oneida Indian Nation dated December 19, 2008
- Letter sent to the Oneida Tribe of Indians of Wisconsin dated December 19, 2008
- Letter sent to the Onondaga Indian Nation dated December 19, 2008
- Letter sent to the Seneca Nation of Indians dated December 19, 2008
- Letter sent to the Seneca-Cayuga Tribe of Oklahoma dated December 19, 2008
- Letter sent to the Stockbridge Munsee Community of Wisconsin dated December 19, 2008
- Letter sent to the Tonawanda Band of Seneca dated December 19, 2008
- Letter sent to the Tuscarora Nation dated December 19, 2008
- Letter sent to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service dated January 14, 2009
- Letter sent to the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources dated January 14, 2009
- Letter sent to the Pennsylvania Game Commission dated January 14, 2009
- Letter sent to the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission dated January 14, 2009
- Letter received from the State Historic Preservation Office dated January 16, 2009
- Letter received from the Stockbridge-Munsee Tribal Historic Preservation Office dated January 7, 2009
- Letter received from the Eastern Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma dated January 8, 2009
- Letter received from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service dated February 3, 2009
- Letter received from the Pennsylvania Game Commission dated February 2, 2009



**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
99<sup>TH</sup> REGIONAL SUPPORT COMMAND  
5522 NASHVILLE STREET  
FORT DIX, NEW JERSEY 08640**



REPLY TO  
ATTENTION OF:

December 19, 2008

Directorate of Public Works

Ms. Barbara Franco  
State Historic Preservation Officer  
Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission  
300 North Street  
Harrisburg, PA 17120  
Phone: 717-787-2891

Dear Ms. Franco:

The Department of the Army is preparing an environmental assessment (EA) for the proposed construction of an Armed Forces Reserve Center (AFRC) in Scranton, Lackawanna County, Pennsylvania as part of the restructuring of military bases recommended by the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Act (BRAC). To enable implementation of these recommendations, the U.S. Army, in partnership with the 99<sup>th</sup> U.S. Army Reserve Regional Support Command, proposes to provide the necessary facilities at a site in Scranton, Pennsylvania to support the changes in force structure. The EA is being prepared in strict accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended (42 USC 4321 et seq.); National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended (PL 89-6650), its implementing authority, Section 106 of 36 CFR 800; Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (43 CFR 10.13); Council on Environmental Quality Regulations (40 CFR 1500-1508); and Environmental Analysis of Army Actions (32 CFR Part 651). The purpose of this letter is to request your early input on the proposed federal action.

The Proposed Action includes the construction of a new 1,000-member AFRC, Organizational Maintenance Shop, and unheated storage building, for which the Army would acquire up to 30 acres of land for construction of these facilities. Maximum expected use of the proposed facility would be 680 members per weekend. In addition, the facility would employ approximately 42 permanent full-time personnel with implementation of the BRAC Commission's realignment recommendations.

Two alternative sites for the Proposed Action are being evaluated. The Army has not yet selected a preferred alternative. The Army's first alternative is located off Rockwell Avenue, adjacent to the Lackawanna County South Vocational-Technical School, located at Reese Street and Rockwell Avenue within 1 mile of I-81. The site is 54 acres partially owned by the Lackawanna School District. It is a former strip mine and sits on 12 levels of mining. The surface was then strip-mined and backfilled with random, unconsolidated material. There is no active use of the site. The site is partially wooded. It has been determined that this is a buildable site, although special foundation measures will need to be taken. These could include structural mat foundations and locating buildings outside of the "higher-risk" areas of the site where settlement is likely to occur. This site would require more grading and site preparation due to topography. The Area of Potential Effect would be 30 acres.

Alternative 2 is located in the 81-acre Marvine Business Park in Scranton, Pennsylvania. The site is at the intersection of I-81 and Olyphant Avenue. The site is a strip mine in the early stages of redevelopment. It sits on nine levels of mines. There was a sub-surface mine fire that burned for 15 years and is now extinguished. No vegetation remains on the site. Currently, there are active mining operations at the property, which include extracting coal and coal sediments from the remaining onsite material. Concurrent with the mining operations, the site is being graded to encourage development. As with Alternative 1, special foundation measures would need to be taken to construct the AFRC on this site.

Attachment 1 shows the location of the proposed sites and Attachments 2 and 3 are aerial photos of each site. Attachments 4 and 5 are preliminary site plans for each site. The facilities would be permanent construction with reinforced concrete structures, with approximately 6 acres of pavement needed for privately-owned vehicles and military vehicle parking. Future site improvements are expected to occupy approximately 25 acres. The Army estimates that construction would begin fiscal year 2009.

There are no existing buildings or structures at either proposed project area. There are no known archaeological sites at either location. A Phase I cultural resources survey will be conducted for both sites to confirm the absence of any undiscovered cultural resources before the property is acquired by the Army. You will be provided with review copies of the Archaeological Survey and the EA.

As this is an accelerated project, your prompt response and comments will be appreciated. I would also like to thank you in advance for your cooperation in this matter. If you have questions or require further information concerning this request, please do not hesitate to contact Mrs. Ramona Garrett at the following:

Ramona Garrett  
HQ 99<sup>th</sup> RSC DPW  
ATTN: ARRC-SNJ-PW (GARRETT)  
99 Soldiers Lane  
Coraopolis, PA 15108  
(412) 604-8168  
mona.garrett@us.army.mil

Sincerely,



Joseph H. Ledlow  
Colonel, US Army Reserve  
99<sup>th</sup> RSC Engineers

ATTACHMENTS:

- 1 – Location of Proposed Sites
- 2 – Aerial Photograph of the Vo-Tech Site – Alternative 1
- 3 – Aerial Photograph of the Marvine Business Park Site – Alternative 2
- 4 – Preliminary Site Layout – Alternative 1
- 5 – Preliminary Site Layout – Alternative 2



**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY**  
99<sup>TH</sup> REGIONAL SUPPORT COMMAND  
5231 SOUTH SCOTT PLAZA  
FORT DIX, NEW JERSEY 08640

6 February 2009

Ms. Barbara Franco  
State Historic Preservation Officer  
Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission  
300 North Street  
Harrisburg, PA 17120  
Phone: 717-787-2891

Subject: Determination of No Effect; File No. ER 2009-0554-069-A

Dear Ms. Franco:

The Department of the Army (Army) is proposing the construction of an Armed Forces Reserve Center (AFRC) in Scranton, Lackawanna County, Pennsylvania as part of the restructuring of military bases recommended by the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Act (BRAC). To enable implementation of these recommendations, the U.S. Army, in partnership with the 99<sup>th</sup> U.S. Army Reserve Regional Support Command, proposes to provide the necessary facilities at a site in Scranton, Pennsylvania to support the changes in force structure. An initial consultation letter was sent to your office on December 19, 2008 outlining the project and inviting your input concerning the potential effects the project may have on historic properties as is required by section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended (PL 89-6650), and its implementing regulations at 36CFR800. We appreciate the response of January 16, 2009 from your office.

As proposed in the initial letter, the Army conducted a Phase I cultural resources survey of the two alternative sites proposed for the construction of the facility. Both locations were found to be heavily disturbed and to lack historic properties. The survey entitled "A Cultural Resources Survey of the Proposed Scranton Armed Forces Reserve Center" is enclosed as Attachment 1 for your review and comments. Based on the survey, the Army has determined "no historic properties affected" by the undertaking as per 36CFR800.4(d)(1).

The Proposed Action includes the construction of a new 1,000-member AFRC, Organizational Maintenance Shop, and unheated storage building, for which the Army would acquire up to 30 acres of land for construction of these facilities. Two alternative sites for the Proposed Action are being evaluated. The area of potential effect by the proposed undertaking includes 30 acres at either location.

The Army's first alternative is located off Rockwell Avenue, adjacent to the Lackawanna County South Vocational-Technical School, located at Reese Street and Rockwell Avenue within 1 mile of I-81. It is a former strip mine and sits on 12 levels of mining. The surface was then strip-mined and backfilled with random, unconsolidated material. There is no active use of the site. The site is partially wooded. Alternative 2 is located in the Marvine Business Park in Scranton, Pennsylvania. The site is at the intersection of I-81 and Olyphant Avenue. The site is a strip mine in the early stages of redevelopment. It sits on nine levels of mines. There was a sub-surface mine fire that burned for 15 years and is now extinguished. No vegetation remains on the site. Concurrent with the mining operations, the site is being graded to encourage development. Figure 1.1 of the enclosed report shows the project locations on portion of the Scranton, PA 7.5 minute USGS quadrangle.

In late August and September of 2008, Brockington & Associates, Inc. conducted a Phase I cultural resources survey of the proposed project area. The work included review of archives at the PHMC in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania on August 14, as well as review of other pertinent records. No previously

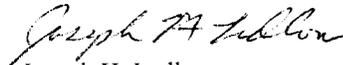
recorded archaeological sites were located within 1 mile of the project areas. A total of 100 architectural structures were located within 1 mile of the properties, however, none were located within .5 miles of the properties. The work also included a pedestrian reconnaissance survey in areas heavily disturbed by mining, and systematic shovel testing and screening, where intact archaeological deposits were possible. In addition, an architectural survey of the view-shed of the developments was also conducted. The survey found both areas heavily disturbed by previous mining activity. No cultural resources were identified within the proposed development areas. In addition, no archaeological resources or standing structures eligible for or listed on the National Register of Historic Places are located within the area of potential effect of the project to include view-shed. No additional cultural resource surveys are recommended for the project areas.

In addition to the survey work, federally recognized Native American tribes with possible interest in the area were consulted concerning the proposed action. Letters sent on December 19, 2008 included a project description and request for information about know areas of interest to the tribes. To date, no tribes have expressed concern or provided information about possible traditional cultural properties or sacred sites in the project areas.

Based on the background information, consultation, and field studies, the Army has determined “no historic properties affected” by the undertaking as per 36CFR800.4(d)(1). The Army requests you review the report provided and concur with our determination of no historic properties affected. If you have any questions or comments on the report your prompt response will be appreciated. Please do not hesitate to contact Ms. Ramona Garrett at the following:

Ramona Garrett  
HQ 99<sup>th</sup> DPW  
ATTN: ARRC-SNJ-PW (GARRETT)  
99 Soldiers Lane  
Coraopolis, PA 15108  
(412) 604-8168  
[mona.garrett@us.army.mil](mailto:mona.garrett@us.army.mil)

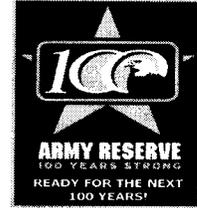
Sincerely,

  
Joseph H. Ledlow  
Colonel, US Army Reserve  
Regional Engineer

ATTACHMENTS: Cultural Resources Report



**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
99<sup>TH</sup> REGIONAL SUPPORT COMMAND  
5522 NASHVILLE STREET  
FORT DIX, NEW JERSEY 08640**



REPLY TO  
ATTENTION OF:

December 19, 2008

Directorate of Public Works

Mr. James Edwards  
Governor  
Absentee-Shawnee Tribe of Indians of Oklahoma  
2025 S. Gordon Cooper Drive  
Shawnee, OK 74801  
Phone: 405-275-4030

Dear Mr. Edwards:

The Department of the Army is preparing an environmental assessment (EA) for the proposed construction of an Armed Forces Reserve Center (AFRC) in Scranton, Lackawanna County, Pennsylvania as part of the restructuring of military bases recommended by the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Act (BRAC). To enable implementation of these recommendations, the U.S. Army, in partnership with the 99<sup>th</sup> U.S. Army Reserve Regional Support Command, proposes to provide the necessary facilities at a site in Scranton, Pennsylvania to support the changes in force structure. The EA is being prepared in strict accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended (42 USC 4321 et seq.); National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended (PL 89-6650), its implementing authority, Section 106 of 36 CFR 800; Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (43 CFR 10.13); Council on Environmental Quality Regulations (40 CFR 1500-1508); and Environmental Analysis of Army Actions (32 CFR Part 651). The purpose of this letter is to request your early input on the proposed federal action.

The Proposed Action includes the construction of a new 1,000-member AFRC, Organizational Maintenance Shop, and unheated storage building, for which the Army would acquire up to 30 acres of land for construction of these facilities. Maximum expected use of the proposed facility would be 680 members per weekend. In addition, the facility would employ approximately 42 permanent full-time personnel with implementation of the BRAC Commission's realignment recommendations.

Two alternative sites for the Proposed Action are being evaluated. The Army has not yet selected a preferred alternative. The Army's first alternative is located off Rockwell Avenue, adjacent to the Lackawanna County South Vocational-Technical School, located at Reese Street and Rockwell Avenue within 1 mile of I-81. The site is 54 acres partially owned by the Lackawanna School District. It is a former strip mine and sits on 12 levels of mining. The surface was then strip-mined and backfilled with random, unconsolidated material. There is no active use of the site. The site is partially wooded. It has been determined that this is a buildable site, although special foundation measures will need to be taken. These could include structural mat foundations and locating buildings outside of the "higher-risk" areas of the site where settlement is likely to occur. This site would require more grading and site preparation due to topography. The Area of Potential Effect would be 30 acres.

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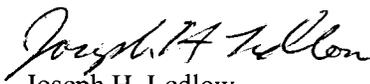
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There are no existing buildings or structures at either proposed project area. There are no known archaeological sites at either location. A Phase I cultural resources survey will be conducted for both sites to confirm the absence of any undiscovered cultural resources before the property is acquired by the Army. You will be provided with review copies of the Archaeological Survey and the EA.

As this is an accelerated project, your prompt response and comments will be appreciated. I would also like to thank you in advance for your cooperation in this matter. If you have questions or require further information concerning this request, please do not hesitate to contact Mrs. Ramona Garrett at the following:

Ramona Garrett  
HQ 99<sup>th</sup> RSC DPW  
ATTN: ARRC-SNJ-PW (GARRETT)  
99 Soldiers Lane  
Coraopolis, PA 15108  
(412) 604-8168  
mona.garrett@us.army.mil

Sincerely,

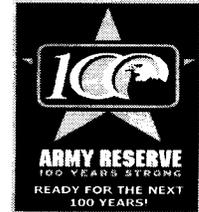
  
Joseph H. Ledlow  
Colonel, US Army Reserve  
99<sup>th</sup> RSC Engineers

ATTACHMENTS:

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**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
99<sup>TH</sup> REGIONAL SUPPORT COMMAND  
5522 NASHVILLE STREET  
FORT DIX, NEW JERSEY 08640**



REPLY TO  
ATTENTION OF:

December 19, 2008

Directorate of Public Works

Ms. Hilda Smoke  
Chief  
Akwasasne Mohawk Nation  
412 State Route 37  
Hogansburg, NY 13655  
Phone: 518-358-2272

Dear Ms. Smoke:

The Department of the Army is preparing an environmental assessment (EA) for the proposed construction of an Armed Forces Reserve Center (AFRC) in Scranton, Lackawanna County, Pennsylvania as part of the restructuring of military bases recommended by the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Act (BRAC). To enable implementation of these recommendations, the U.S. Army, in partnership with the 99<sup>th</sup> U.S. Army Reserve Regional Support Command, proposes to provide the necessary facilities at a site in Scranton, Pennsylvania to support the changes in force structure. The EA is being prepared in strict accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended (42 USC 4321 et seq.); National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended (PL 89-6650), its implementing authority, Section 106 of 36 CFR 800; Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (43 CFR 10.13); Council on Environmental Quality Regulations (40 CFR 1500-1508); and Environmental Analysis of Army Actions (32 CFR Part 651). The purpose of this letter is to request your early input on the proposed federal action.

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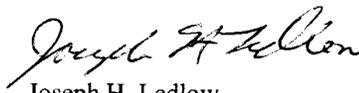
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There are no existing buildings or structures at either proposed project area. There are no known archaeological sites at either location. A Phase I cultural resources survey will be conducted for both sites to confirm the absence of any undiscovered cultural resources before the property is acquired by the Army. You will be provided with review copies of the Archaeological Survey and the EA.

As this is an accelerated project, your prompt response and comments will be appreciated. I would also like to thank you in advance for your cooperation in this matter. If you have questions or require further information concerning this request, please do not hesitate to contact Mrs. Ramona Garrett at the following:

Ramona Garrett  
HQ 99<sup>th</sup> RSC DPW  
ATTN: ARRC-SNJ-PW (GARRETT)  
99 Soldiers Lane  
Coraopolis, PA 15108  
(412) 604-8168  
mona.garrett@us.army.mil

Sincerely,



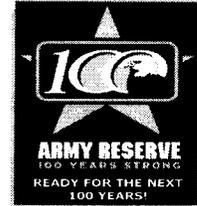
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**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
99<sup>TH</sup> REGIONAL SUPPORT COMMAND  
5522 NASHVILLE STREET  
FORT DIX, NEW JERSEY 08640**



REPLY TO  
ATTENTION OF:

December 19, 2008

Directorate of Public Works

Mr. Vernon Isaac  
Chief  
Cayuga Nation of Indians  
P.O. Box 11  
Versailles, NY 14168  
Phone: 716-532-4847

Dear Mr. Isaac:

The Department of the Army is preparing an environmental assessment (EA) for the proposed construction of an Armed Forces Reserve Center (AFRC) in Scranton, Lackawanna County, Pennsylvania as part of the restructuring of military bases recommended by the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Act (BRAC). To enable implementation of these recommendations, the U.S. Army, in partnership with the 99<sup>th</sup> U.S. Army Reserve Regional Support Command, proposes to provide the necessary facilities at a site in Scranton, Pennsylvania to support the changes in force structure. The EA is being prepared in strict accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended (42 USC 4321 et seq.); National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended (PL 89-6650), its implementing authority, Section 106 of 36 CFR 800; Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (43 CFR 10.13); Council on Environmental Quality Regulations (40 CFR 1500-1508); and Environmental Analysis of Army Actions (32 CFR Part 651). The purpose of this letter is to request your early input on the proposed federal action.

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mona.garrett@us.army.mil

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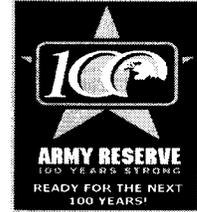
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**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
99<sup>TH</sup> REGIONAL SUPPORT COMMAND  
5522 NASHVILLE STREET  
FORT DIX, NEW JERSEY 08640**



REPLY TO  
ATTENTION OF:

December 19, 2008

Directorate of Public Works

Mr. De Ketchum  
Chief  
Delaware Tribe of Indians  
220 NW Virginia Avenue  
Bartlesville, OK 74001  
Phone: 918-336-5272

Dear Mr. Ketchum:

The Department of the Army is preparing an environmental assessment (EA) for the proposed construction of an Armed Forces Reserve Center (AFRC) in Scranton, Lackawanna County, Pennsylvania as part of the restructuring of military bases recommended by the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Act (BRAC). To enable implementation of these recommendations, the U.S. Army, in partnership with the 99<sup>th</sup> U.S. Army Reserve Regional Support Command, proposes to provide the necessary facilities at a site in Scranton, Pennsylvania to support the changes in force structure. The EA is being prepared in strict accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended (42 USC 4321 et seq.); National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended (PL 89-6650), its implementing authority, Section 106 of 36 CFR 800; Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (43 CFR 10.13); Council on Environmental Quality Regulations (40 CFR 1500-1508); and Environmental Analysis of Army Actions (32 CFR Part 651). The purpose of this letter is to request your early input on the proposed federal action.

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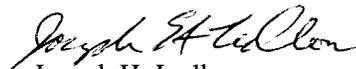
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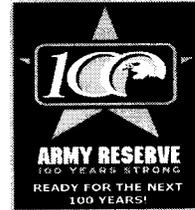
  
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**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY**  
**99<sup>TH</sup> REGIONAL SUPPORT COMMAND**  
**5522 NASHVILLE STREET**  
**FORT DIX, NEW JERSEY 08640**



REPLY TO  
ATTENTION OF:

December 19, 2008

Directorate of Public Works

Mr. Bruce Gonzalez  
President  
Delaware Tribe of Western Oklahoma  
P.O. Box 825  
Anadarko, OK 73005  
Phone: 405-247-2448

Dear Mr. Gonzalez:

The Department of the Army is preparing an environmental assessment (EA) for the proposed construction of an Armed Forces Reserve Center (AFRC) in Scranton, Lackawanna County, Pennsylvania as part of the restructuring of military bases recommended by the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Act (BRAC). To enable implementation of these recommendations, the U.S. Army, in partnership with the 99<sup>th</sup> U.S. Army Reserve Regional Support Command, proposes to provide the necessary facilities at a site in Scranton, Pennsylvania to support the changes in force structure. The EA is being prepared in strict accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended (42 USC 4321 et seq.); National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended (PL 89-6650), its implementing authority, Section 106 of 36 CFR 800; Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (43 CFR 10.13); Council on Environmental Quality Regulations (40 CFR 1500-1508); and Environmental Analysis of Army Actions (32 CFR Part 651). The purpose of this letter is to request your early input on the proposed federal action.

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mona.garrett@us.army.mil

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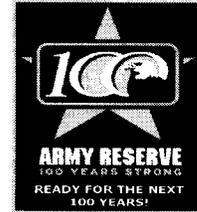
  
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**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
99<sup>TH</sup> REGIONAL SUPPORT COMMAND  
5522 NASHVILLE STREET  
FORT DIX, NEW JERSEY 08640**



REPLY TO  
ATTENTION OF:

December 19, 2008

Directorate of Public Works

Mr. Charles D. Enyart  
Chief  
Eastern Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma  
P.O. Box 350  
Seneca, MO 64865  
Phone: 918-666-2435

Dear Mr. Enyart:

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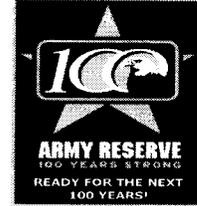
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**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
99<sup>TH</sup> REGIONAL SUPPORT COMMAND  
5522 NASHVILLE STREET  
FORT DIX, NEW JERSEY 08640**



REPLY TO  
ATTENTION OF:

December 19, 2008

Directorate of Public Works

Mr. Ray Halbritter  
Representative  
Oneida Indian Nation  
Genesee Street  
Ames Plaza Oneida, NY 13421  
Phone: 315-361-6300

Dear Mr. Halbritter:

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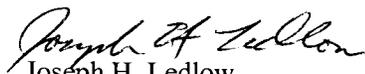
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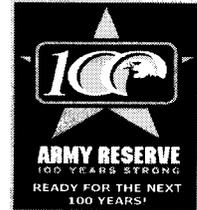
  
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**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
99<sup>TH</sup> REGIONAL SUPPORT COMMAND  
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REPLY TO  
ATTENTION OF:

December 19, 2008

Directorate of Public Works

Mr. Gerald Danforth  
Chairperson  
Oneida Tribe of Indians of Wisconsin  
P.O. Box 365  
Oneida, WI 54155-0365  
Phone: 920-869-2214

Dear Mr. Danforth:

The Department of the Army is preparing an environmental assessment (EA) for the proposed construction of an Armed Forces Reserve Center (AFRC) in Scranton, Lackawanna County, Pennsylvania as part of the restructuring of military bases recommended by the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Act (BRAC). To enable implementation of these recommendations, the U.S. Army, in partnership with the 99<sup>th</sup> U.S. Army Reserve Regional Support Command, proposes to provide the necessary facilities at a site in Scranton, Pennsylvania to support the changes in force structure. The EA is being prepared in strict accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended (42 USC 4321 et seq.); National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended (PL 89-6650), its implementing authority, Section 106 of 36 CFR 800; Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (43 CFR 10.13); Council on Environmental Quality Regulations (40 CFR 1500-1508); and Environmental Analysis of Army Actions (32 CFR Part 651). The purpose of this letter is to request your early input on the proposed federal action.

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Attachment 1 shows the location of the proposed sites and Attachments 2 and 3 are aerial photos of each site. Attachments 4 and 5 are preliminary site plans for each site. The facilities would be permanent construction with reinforced concrete structures, with approximately 6 acres of pavement needed for privately-owned vehicles and military vehicle parking. Future site improvements are expected to occupy approximately 25 acres. The Army estimates that construction would begin fiscal year 2009.

There are no existing buildings or structures at either proposed project area. There are no known archaeological sites at either location. A Phase I cultural resources survey will be conducted for both sites to confirm the absence of any undiscovered cultural resources before the property is acquired by the Army. You will be provided with review copies of the Archaeological Survey and the EA.

As this is an accelerated project, your prompt response and comments will be appreciated. I would also like to thank you in advance for your cooperation in this matter. If you have questions or require further information concerning this request, please do not hesitate to contact Mrs. Ramona Garrett at the following:

Ramona Garrett  
HQ 99<sup>th</sup> RSC DPW  
ATTN: ARRC-SNJ-PW (GARRETT)  
99 Soldiers Lane  
Coraopolis, PA 15108  
(412) 604-8168  
mona.garrett@us.army.mil

Sincerely,



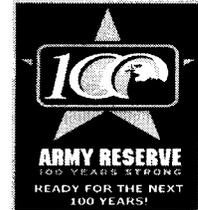
Joseph H. Ledlow  
Colonel, US Army Reserve  
99<sup>th</sup> RSC Engineers

**ATTACHMENTS:**

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**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
99<sup>TH</sup> REGIONAL SUPPORT COMMAND  
5522 NASHVILLE STREET  
FORT DIX, NEW JERSEY 08640**



REPLY TO  
ATTENTION OF:

December 19, 2008

Directorate of Public Works

Mr. Irving Powless, Jr.  
Chief  
Onondaga Indian Nation  
RR#1, Box 319-B  
Nedrow, NY 13120  
Phone: 315-492-4210

Dear Mr. Powless:

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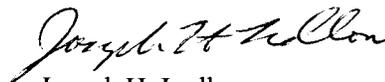
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(412) 604-8168  
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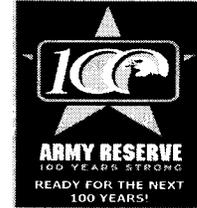
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**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
99<sup>TH</sup> REGIONAL SUPPORT COMMAND  
5522 NASHVILLE STREET  
FORT DIX, NEW JERSEY 08640**



REPLY TO  
ATTENTION OF:

December 19, 2008

Directorate of Public Works

Mr. Cyrus Schindler  
President  
Seneca Nation of Indians  
1490 Route 438  
Irving, NY 14081  
Phone: 716-532-4900

Dear Mr. Schindler:

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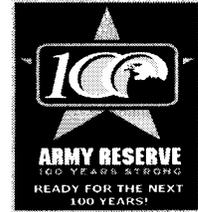
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5522 NASHVILLE STREET  
FORT DIX, NEW JERSEY 08640**



REPLY TO  
ATTENTION OF:

December 19, 2008

Directorate of Public Works

Mr. LeRoy Howard  
Chief  
Seneca-Cayuga Tribe of Oklahoma  
P.O. Box 1283  
Miami, OK 74355  
Phone: 918-542-6609

Dear Mr. Howard:

The Department of the Army is preparing an environmental assessment (EA) for the proposed construction of an Armed Forces Reserve Center (AFRC) in Scranton, Lackawanna County, Pennsylvania as part of the restructuring of military bases recommended by the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Act (BRAC). To enable implementation of these recommendations, the U.S. Army, in partnership with the 99<sup>th</sup> U.S. Army Reserve Regional Support Command, proposes to provide the necessary facilities at a site in Scranton, Pennsylvania to support the changes in force structure. The EA is being prepared in strict accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended (42 USC 4321 et seq.); National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended (PL 89-6650), its implementing authority, Section 106 of 36 CFR 800; Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (43 CFR 10.13); Council on Environmental Quality Regulations (40 CFR 1500-1508); and Environmental Analysis of Army Actions (32 CFR Part 651). The purpose of this letter is to request your early input on the proposed federal action.

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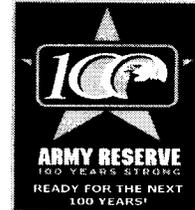
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5522 NASHVILLE STREET  
FORT DIX, NEW JERSEY 08640**



REPLY TO  
ATTENTION OF:

December 19, 2008

Directorate of Public Works

Mr. Robert Chicks  
President  
Stockbridge Munsee Community of Wisconsin  
N8476 Mo He Con Nuck Road  
Bowler, WI 54416  
Phone: 715-739-4111

Dear Mr. Chicks:

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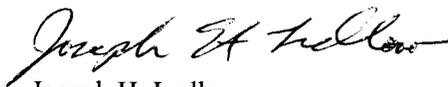
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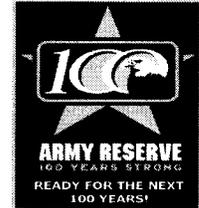
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99<sup>TH</sup> REGIONAL SUPPORT COMMAND  
5522 NASHVILLE STREET  
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REPLY TO  
ATTENTION OF:

December 19, 2008

Directorate of Public Works

Mr. Emerson Webster  
Chief  
Tonawanda Band of Seneca  
7027 Meadville Road  
Basom, NY 14013  
Phone: 716-542-4244

Dear Mr. Webster:

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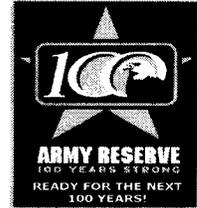
  
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**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY**  
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REPLY TO  
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December 19, 2008

Directorate of Public Works

Mr. Leo R. Henry  
Chief  
Tuscarora Nation  
2006 Mt. Hope Road  
Lewistown, NY 14092  
Phone: 716-622-7061

Dear Mr. Henry:

The Department of the Army is preparing an environmental assessment (EA) for the proposed construction of an Armed Forces Reserve Center (AFRC) in Scranton, Lackawanna County, Pennsylvania as part of the restructuring of military bases recommended by the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Act (BRAC). To enable implementation of these recommendations, the U.S. Army, in partnership with the 99<sup>th</sup> U.S. Army Reserve Regional Support Command, proposes to provide the necessary facilities at a site in Scranton, Pennsylvania to support the changes in force structure. The EA is being prepared in strict accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended (42 USC 4321 et seq.); National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended (PL 89-6650), its implementing authority, Section 106 of 36 CFR 800; Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (43 CFR 10.13); Council on Environmental Quality Regulations (40 CFR 1500-1508); and Environmental Analysis of Army Actions (32 CFR Part 651). The purpose of this letter is to request your early input on the proposed federal action.

The Proposed Action includes the construction of a new 1,000-member AFRC, Organizational Maintenance Shop, and unheated storage building, for which the Army would acquire up to 30 acres of land for construction of these facilities. Maximum expected use of the proposed facility would be 680 members per weekend. In addition, the facility would employ approximately 42 permanent full-time personnel with implementation of the BRAC Commission's realignment recommendations.

Two alternative sites for the Proposed Action are being evaluated. The Army has not yet selected a preferred alternative. The Army's first alternative is located off Rockwell Avenue, adjacent to the Lackawanna County South Vocational-Technical School, located at Reese Street and Rockwell Avenue within 1 mile of I-81. The site is 54 acres partially owned by the Lackawanna School District. It is a former strip mine and sits on 12 levels of mining. The surface was then strip-mined and backfilled with random, unconsolidated material. There is no active use of the site. The site is partially wooded. It has been determined that this is a buildable site, although special foundation measures will need to be taken. These could include structural mat foundations and locating buildings outside of the "higher-risk" areas of the site where settlement is likely to occur. This site would require more grading and site preparation due to topography. The Area of Potential Effect would be 30 acres.

Alternative 2 is located in the 81-acre Marvine Business Park in Scranton, Pennsylvania. The site is at the intersection of I-81 and Olyphant Avenue. The site is a strip mine in the early stages of redevelopment. It sits on nine levels of mines. There was a sub-surface mine fire that burned for 15 years and is now extinguished. No vegetation remains on the site. Currently, there are active mining operations at the property, which include extracting coal and coal sediments from the remaining onsite material. Concurrent with the mining operations, the site is being graded to encourage development. As with Alternative 1, special foundation measures would need to be taken to construct the AFRC on this site.

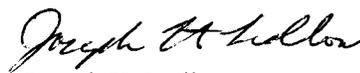
Attachment 1 shows the location of the proposed sites and Attachments 2 and 3 are aerial photos of each site. Attachments 4 and 5 are preliminary site plans for each site. The facilities would be permanent construction with reinforced concrete structures, with approximately 6 acres of pavement needed for privately-owned vehicles and military vehicle parking. Future site improvements are expected to occupy approximately 25 acres. The Army estimates that construction would begin fiscal year 2009.

There are no existing buildings or structures at either proposed project area. There are no known archaeological sites at either location. A Phase I cultural resources survey will be conducted for both sites to confirm the absence of any undiscovered cultural resources before the property is acquired by the Army. You will be provided with review copies of the Archaeological Survey and the EA.

As this is an accelerated project, your prompt response and comments will be appreciated. I would also like to thank you in advance for your cooperation in this matter. If you have questions or require further information concerning this request, please do not hesitate to contact Mrs. Ramona Garrett at the following:

Ramona Garrett  
HQ 99<sup>th</sup> RSC DPW  
ATTN: ARRC-SNJ-PW (GARRETT)  
99 Soldiers Lane  
Coraopolis, PA 15108  
(412) 604-8168  
mona.garrett@us.army.mil

Sincerely,

  
Joseph H. Ledlow  
Colonel, US Army Reserve  
99<sup>th</sup> RSC Engineers

**ATTACHMENTS:**

- 1 – Location of Proposed Sites
- 2 – Aerial Photograph of the Vo-Tech Site – Alternative 1
- 3 – Aerial Photograph of the Marvine Business Park Site – Alternative 2
- 4 – Preliminary Site Layout – Alternative 1
- 5 – Preliminary Site Layout – Alternative 2



**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY**  
HEADQUARTERS, 99TH REGIONAL SUPPORT COMMAND  
5522 NASHVILLE STREET  
FORT DIX, NEW JERSEY 08640-5000



REPLY TO  
ATTENTION OF

January 14, 2009

Mr. Marvin Moriarty  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
Region 5  
300 Westgate Center Drive  
Hadley, MA 01035-9589

Dear Mr. Moriarty,

The intent of this letter is to inform you that the U.S. Army Reserve (USAR), 99th Regional Support Command (RSC) is proposing to construct a new Armed Forces Reserve Center (AFRC) in Scranton, Pennsylvania as part of the restructuring of military bases as required by the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Act (BRAC).

On September 8, 2005, the Defense Base Realignment and Closure Commission (BRAC Commission) recommended the following realignment actions occur at Scranton, Pennsylvania:

*"Close the Serrenti Memorial United States Army Reserve Center in Scranton, PA, the Serrenti Memorial United States Army Reserve Organizational Maintenance Shop in Scranton, PA, the United States Army Reserve Center in Wilkes-Barre, PA, and relocate units to a new Armed Forces Reserve Center with an organizational maintenance facility in Scranton, PA, if the Army is able to acquire suitable land for the construction of the facilities."*

The President approved these recommendations on September 23, 2005, and forwarded them to Congress. The Congress did not alter any of the BRAC Commission's recommendations, and on November 9, 2005, the recommendations became law. The BRAC Commission recommendations must now be implemented as provided for in the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Act of 1990 (Public Law 101-510), as amended. The Army will provide the necessary facilities to implement the recommendations, and is preparing an environmental assessment (EA) to analyze and document environmental effects.

To support the BRAC recommendations, the Proposed Action includes the construction of a new 1,000-member AFRC, Organizational Maintenance Shop (OMS) and unheated storage building. Maximum expected use of the proposed facility would be 680 members per weekend. In addition, the facility would employ approximately 42 permanent full-time personnel. Two site locations are being considered and the Army has not selected a preferred site location. Further details of the Proposed Action may be found in Attachment 1. The locations of the proposed sites are shown in Attachment 2.

Alternative 1 is to construct the AFRC and associated facilities off Rockwell Avenue, adjacent to the Lackawanna County South Vocational-Technical School, located at Reese Street and Rockwell Avenue within 1 mile of I-81. This site consists of approximately 54 acres partially owned by the Lackawanna School District. It is a former strip mine, partially wooded and generally level. Attachment 3 provides an aerial photograph of this site.

Alternative 2 is to construct the AFRC and associated facilities in the Marvine Business Park. A specific location within this site has not yet been identified, but the Army's Site Survey Report stated, "Based on the terrain map and aerial photograph it appears that the most buildable sites are located at the intersection of I-81 and Olyphant Ave. or between Olyphant Ave. and Boulevard Ave. off E. Parker St." The site is a former strip mine in the early stages of redevelopment. There are a total of 81 acres in the Business Park. Terrain is hilly and would require extensive site preparation. Attachment 4 provides an aerial photograph of this site.

### **Summary of Potential Effects on Protected Species and Habitats**

*Protected Species:* The 99<sup>th</sup> RSC is not aware of any resident protected species at either of the Scranton sites. No impacts to any Federal or State protected species are expected to occur as a result of the Proposed Action.

*Habitat:* The AFRC and OMS would be built on land that has already been disturbed. Both sites have been used as former strip mines, so there would not be any loss of native vegetation.

*Wetlands:* No formal delineation of wetlands has been performed on the Scranton site, although no jurisdictional wetlands on the property are recorded in the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's 1995 National Wetlands Inventory. Attachment 5 is a map from the National Wetlands Inventory website showing no wetlands in the area of the Scranton sites.

You will be provided with a copy of the Draft EA when it is complete; however, we would appreciate any initial input you may have on the Proposed Action and the sites being considered. The Army does not anticipate any impacts to any Federal or State protected species as a result of the Proposed Action. If you have questions or require further information, please contact Ms. Mona Garrett at the following:

Mona Garrett, 99<sup>th</sup> RRC West  
Base Transition Coordinator  
(412) 604-8168  
[Mona.Garrett@usar.army.mil](mailto:Mona.Garrett@usar.army.mil)

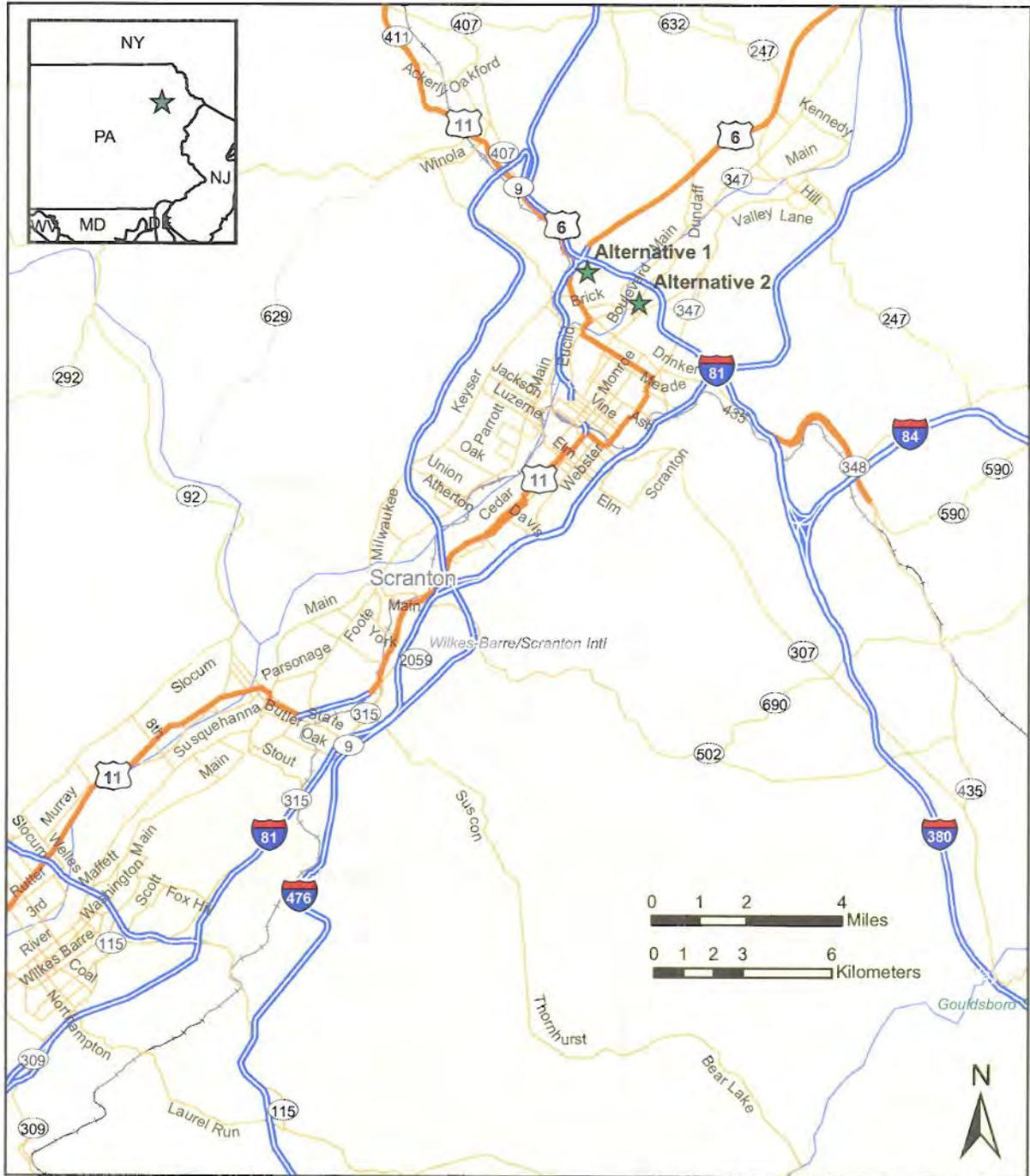
Thank you for your cooperation in this matter. Please send any correspondence to the action listed above to Ms. Garrett at the address listed above.

Sincerely,

  
JOSEPH H. LEDLOW  
Colonel, US Army Reserve  
Regional Engineer

Enclosures:

1. Description of the Proposed Action
2. Location of Proposed Sites
3. Aerial Photograph of Alternative 1
4. Aerial Photograph of Alternative 2
5. National Wetlands Inventory Map



Prepared For:  
 U.S Army Corps of Engineers, Mobile District

Attachment 1  
 Location of Proposed Sites





Prepared For:  
U.S Army Corps of Engineers, Mobile District

Attachment 2  
Aerial Photograph of the Vo-Tech Site - Alternative 1





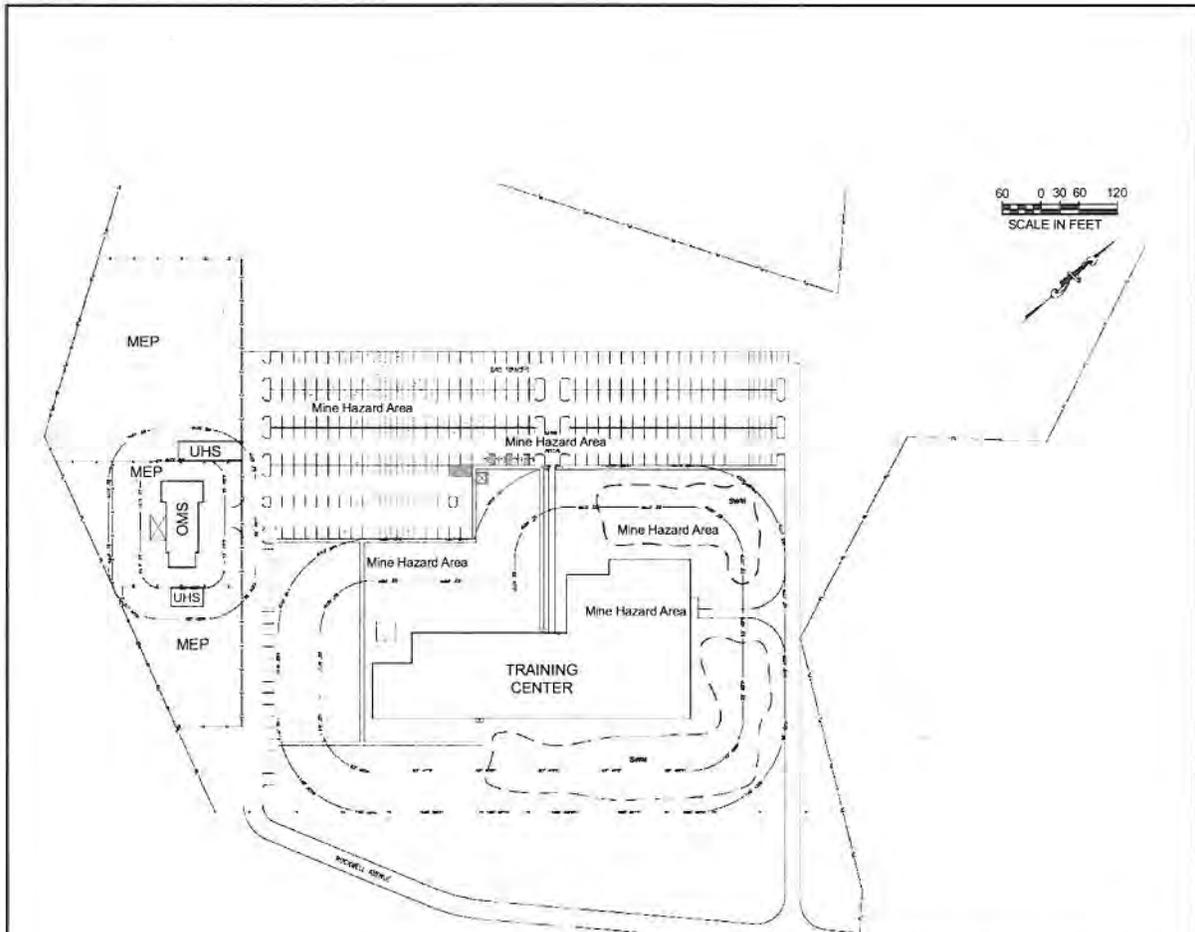
 Approximate boundary of buildable area



Prepared For:  
U.S Army Corps of Engineers, Mobile District

Attachment 3  
Aerial Photograph of the Marvine Business Park Site -  
Alternative 2





Source: Baker and Associates, October 13, 2008; Votek Site

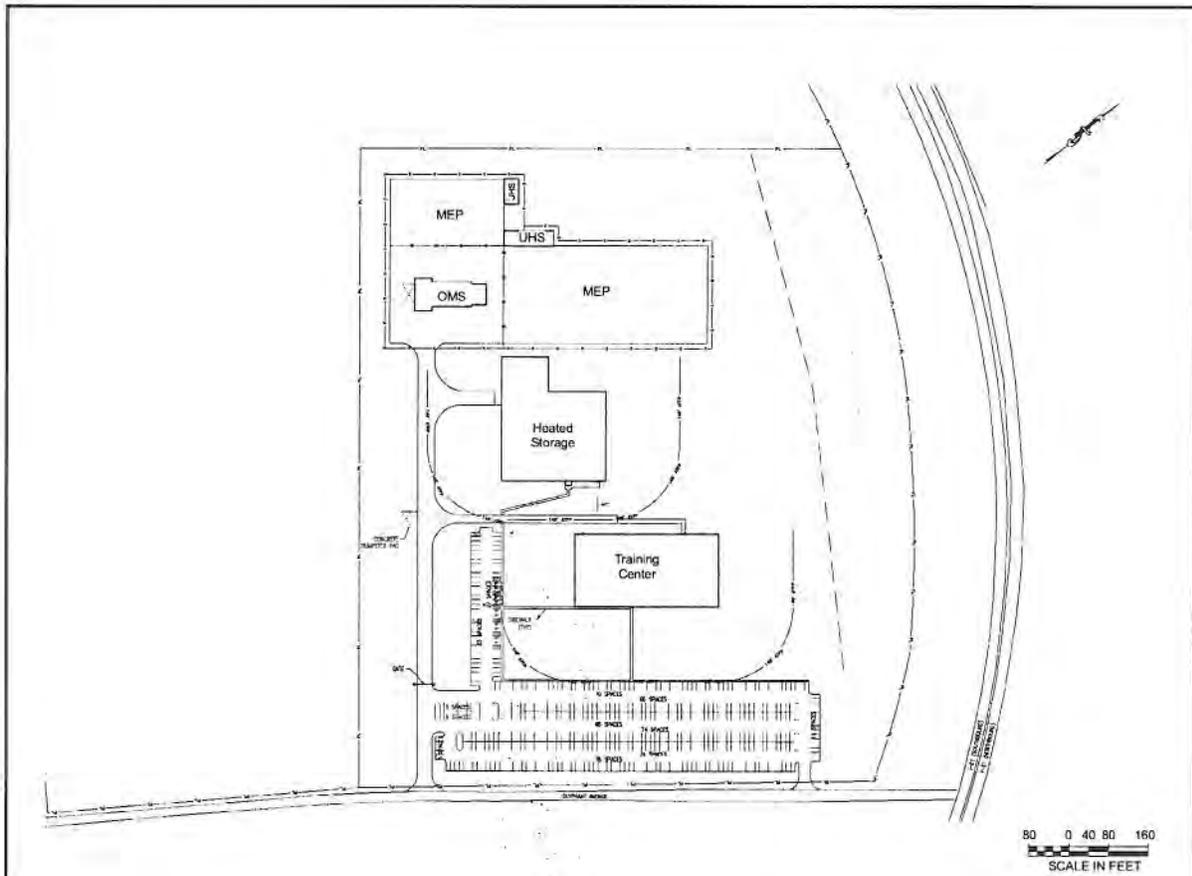


- AFRC Armed Forces Reserve Center
- MEP Military Equipment Parking
- OMS Organizational Maintenance Shop
- UHS Unheated Storage

Prepared For:  
 U.S Army Corps of Engineers, Mobile District

Attachment 4  
 Preliminary AFRC/OMS Site Layout - Alternative 1





Source: Baker and Associates: Marvino Site



- AFRC Armed Forces Reserve Center
- MEP Military Equipment Parking
- OMS Organizational Maintenance Shop
- UHS Unheated Storage

Prepared For:  
 U.S Army Corps of Engineers, Mobile District

Attachment 5  
 Preliminary AFRC/OMS Site Layout - Alternative 2





**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY**  
HEADQUARTERS, 99TH REGIONAL SUPPORT COMMAND  
5522 NASHVILLE STREET  
FORT DIX, NEW JERSEY 08640-5000



REPLY TO  
ATTENTION OF

January 14, 2009

Mr. Justin Newell  
Environmental Review Specialist  
Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources  
Pennsylvania Natural Diversity Inventory  
P.O. Box 8552  
Harrisburg, PA 17105-8552

Dear Mr. Newell,

The intent of this letter is to inform you that the U.S. Army Reserve (USAR), 99th Regional Support Command (RSC) is proposing to construct a new Armed Forces Reserve Center (AFRC) in Scranton, Pennsylvania as part of the restructuring of military bases as required by the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Act (BRAC).

On September 8, 2005, the Defense Base Realignment and Closure Commission (BRAC Commission) recommended the following realignment actions occur at Scranton, Pennsylvania:

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The President approved these recommendations on September 23, 2005, and forwarded them to Congress. The Congress did not alter any of the BRAC Commission's recommendations, and on November 9, 2005, the recommendations became law. The BRAC Commission recommendations must now be implemented as provided for in the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Act of 1990 (Public Law 101-510), as amended. The Army will provide the necessary facilities to implement the recommendations, and is preparing an environmental assessment (EA) to analyze and document environmental effects.

To support the BRAC recommendations, the Proposed Action includes the construction of a new 1,000-member AFRC, Organizational Maintenance Shop (OMS) and unheated storage building. Maximum expected use of the proposed facility would be 680 members per weekend. In addition, the facility would employ approximately 42 permanent full-time personnel. Two site locations are being considered and the Army has not selected a preferred site location. Further details of the Proposed Action may be found in Attachment 1. The locations of the proposed sites are shown in Attachment 2.

Alternative 1 is to construct the AFRC and associated facilities off Rockwell Avenue, adjacent to the Lackawanna County South Vocational-Technical School, located at Reese Street and Rockwell Avenue within 1 mile of I-81. This site consists of approximately 54 acres partially owned by the Lackawanna School District. It is a former strip mine, partially wooded and generally level. Attachment 3 provides an aerial photograph of this site.

Alternative 2 is to construct the AFRC and associated facilities in the Marvine Business Park. A specific location within this site has not yet been identified, but the Army's Site Survey Report stated, "Based on the terrain map and aerial photograph it appears that the most buildable sites are located at the intersection of I-81 and Olyphant Ave. or between Olyphant Ave. and Boulevard Ave. off E. Parker St." The site is a former strip mine in the early stages of redevelopment. There are a total of 81 acres in the Business Park. Terrain is hilly and would require extensive site preparation. Attachment 4 provides an aerial photograph of this site.

### **Summary of Potential Effects on Protected Species and Habitats**

*Protected Species:* The 99<sup>th</sup> RSC is not aware of any resident protected species at either of the Scranton sites. No impacts to any Federal or State protected species are expected to occur as a result of the Proposed Action.

*Habitat:* The AFRC and OMS would be built on land that has already been disturbed. Both sites have been used as former strip mines, so there would not be any loss of native vegetation.

*Wetlands:* No formal delineation of wetlands has been performed on the Scranton site, although no jurisdictional wetlands on the property are recorded in the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's 1995 National Wetlands Inventory. Attachment 5 is a map from the National Wetlands Inventory website showing no wetlands in the area of the Scranton sites.

You will be provided with a copy of the Draft EA when it is complete; however, we would appreciate any initial input you may have on the Proposed Action and the sites being considered. The Army does not anticipate any impacts to any Federal or State protected species as a result of the Proposed Action. If you have questions or require further information, please contact Ms. Mona Garrett at the following:

Mona Garrett, 99<sup>th</sup> RRC West  
Base Transition Coordinator  
(412) 604-8168  
[Mona.Garrett@usar.army.mil](mailto:Mona.Garrett@usar.army.mil)

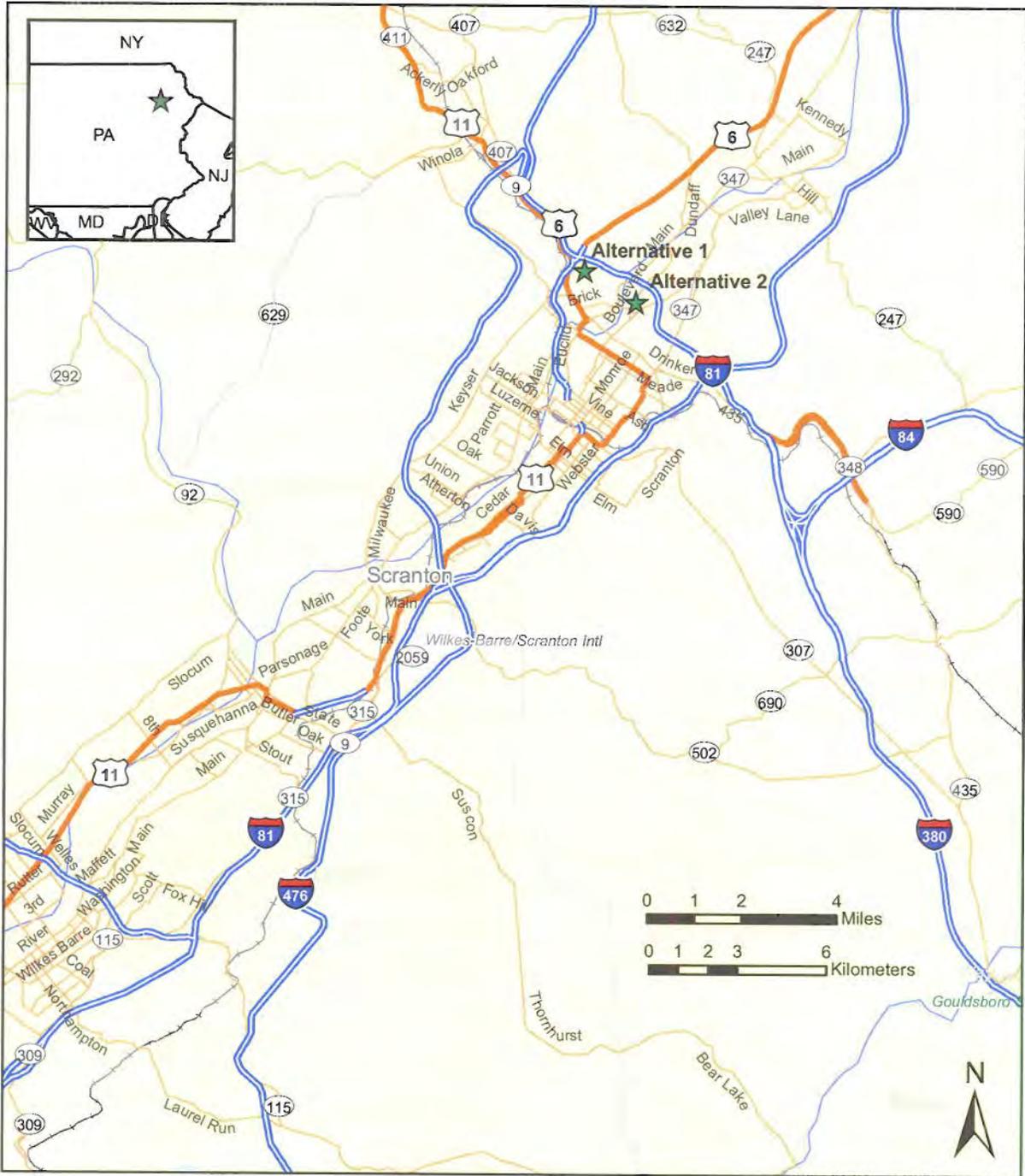
Thank you for your cooperation in this matter. Please send any correspondence to the action listed above to Ms. Garrett at the address listed above.

Sincerely,

  
JOSEPH H. LEDLOW  
Colonel, US Army Reserve  
Regional Engineer

Enclosures:

1. Description of the Proposed Action
2. Location of Proposed Sites
3. Aerial Photograph of Alternative 1
4. Aerial Photograph of Alternative 2
5. National Wetlands Inventory Map



Prepared For:  
 U.S Army Corps of Engineers, Mobile District

Attachment 1  
 Location of Proposed Sites





Prepared For:  
U.S Army Corps of Engineers, Mobile District

Attachment 2  
Aerial Photograph of the Vo-Tech Site - Alternative 1





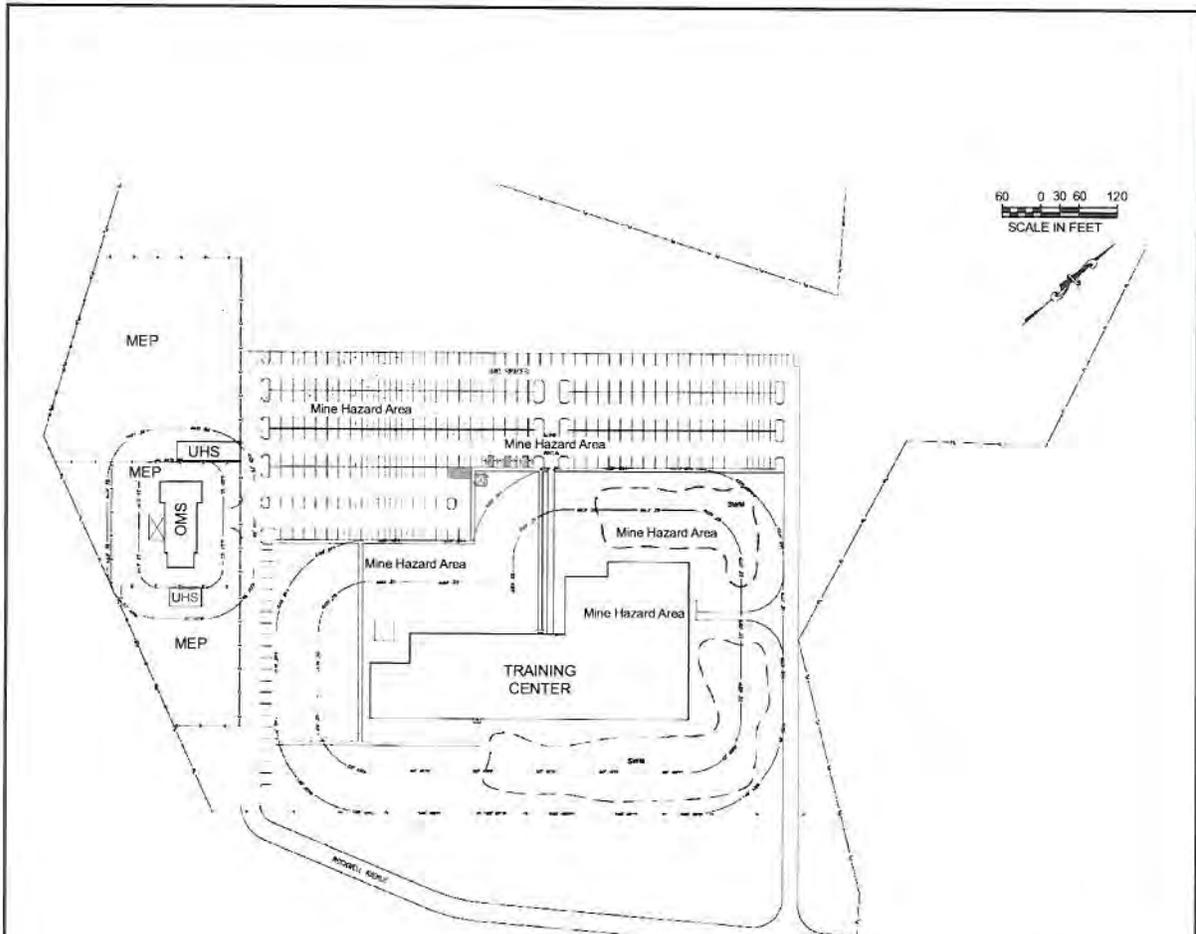
 Approximate boundary of buildable area



Prepared For:  
U.S Army Corps of Engineers, Mobile District

Attachment 3  
Aerial Photograph of the Marvine Business Park Site -  
Alternative 2





Source: Baker and Associates, October 13, 2008; Votach Site

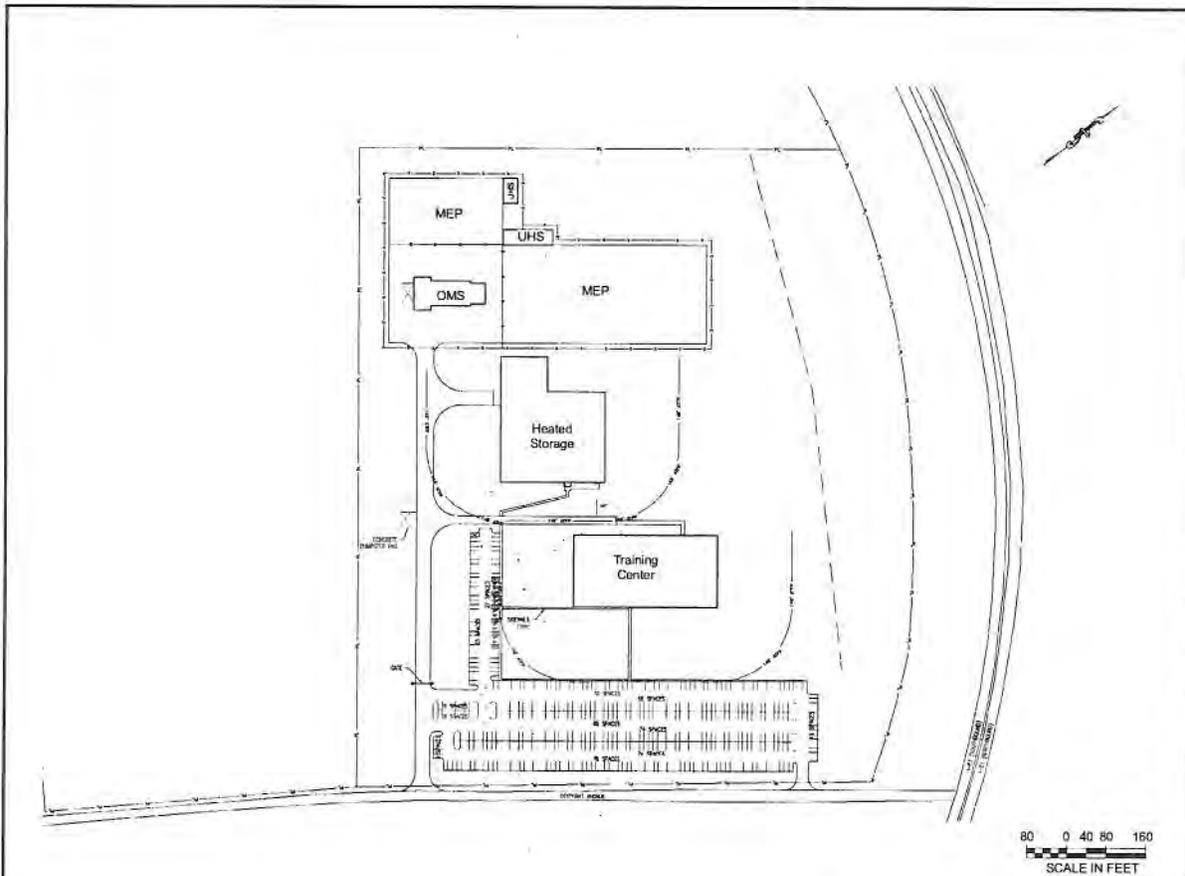


- AFRC Armed Forces Reserve Center
- MEP Military Equipment Parking
- OMS Organizational Maintenance Shop
- UHS Unheated Storage

Prepared For:  
 U.S Army Corps of Engineers, Mobile District

Attachment 4  
 Preliminary AFRC/OMS Site Layout - Alternative 1





Source: Baker and Associates: Marvino Site



- AFRC Armed Forces Reserve Center
- MEP Military Equipment Parking
- OMS Organizational Maintenance Shop
- UHS Unheated Storage

Prepared For:  
U.S Army Corps of Engineers, Mobile District

Attachment 5  
Preliminary AFRC/OMS Site Layout - Alternative 2





**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY**  
HEADQUARTERS, 99TH REGIONAL SUPPORT COMMAND  
5522 NASHVILLE STREET  
FORT DIX, NEW JERSEY 08640-5000



REPLY TO  
ATTENTION OF

January 14, 2009

Mr. William Capouillez  
Chief, Environmental Planning and Land Management  
Pennsylvania Game Commission  
2001 Elmerton Avenue  
Harrisburg, PA 17110-9797

Dear Mr. Capouillez,

The intent of this letter is to inform you that the U.S. Army Reserve (USAR), 99th Regional Support Command (RSC) is proposing to construct a new Armed Forces Reserve Center (AFRC) in Scranton, Pennsylvania as part of the restructuring of military bases as required by the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Act (BRAC).

On September 8, 2005, the Defense Base Realignment and Closure Commission (BRAC Commission) recommended the following realignment actions occur at Scranton, Pennsylvania:

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Alternative 1 is to construct the AFRC and associated facilities off Rockwell Avenue, adjacent to the Lackawanna County South Vocational-Technical School, located at Reese Street and Rockwell Avenue within 1 mile of I-81. This site consists of approximately 54 acres partially owned by the Lackawanna School District. It is a former strip mine, partially wooded and generally level. Attachment 3 provides an aerial photograph of this site.

Alternative 2 is to construct the AFRC and associated facilities in the Marvine Business Park. A specific location within this site has not yet been identified, but the Army's Site Survey Report stated, "Based on the terrain map and aerial photograph it appears that the most buildable sites are located at the intersection of I-81 and Olyphant Ave. or between Olyphant Ave. and Boulevard Ave. off E. Parker St." The site is a former strip mine in the early stages of redevelopment. There are a total of 81 acres in the Business Park. Terrain is hilly and would require extensive site preparation. Attachment 4 provides an aerial photograph of this site.

### **Summary of Potential Effects on Protected Species and Habitats**

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*Habitat:* The AFRC and OMS would be built on land that has already been disturbed. Both sites have been used as former strip mines, so there would not be any loss of native vegetation.

*Wetlands:* No formal delineation of wetlands has been performed on the Scranton site, although no jurisdictional wetlands on the property are recorded in the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's 1995 National Wetlands Inventory. Attachment 5 is a map from the National Wetlands Inventory website showing no wetlands in the area of the Scranton sites.

You will be provided with a copy of the Draft EA when it is complete; however, we would appreciate any initial input you may have on the Proposed Action and the sites being considered. The Army does not anticipate any impacts to any Federal or State protected species as a result of the Proposed Action. If you have questions or require further information, please contact Ms. Mona Garrett at the following:

Mona Garrett, 99<sup>th</sup> RRC West  
Base Transition Coordinator  
(412) 604-8168  
[Mona.Garrett@usar.army.mil](mailto:Mona.Garrett@usar.army.mil)

Thank you for your cooperation in this matter. Please send any correspondence to the action listed above to Ms. Garrett at the address listed above.

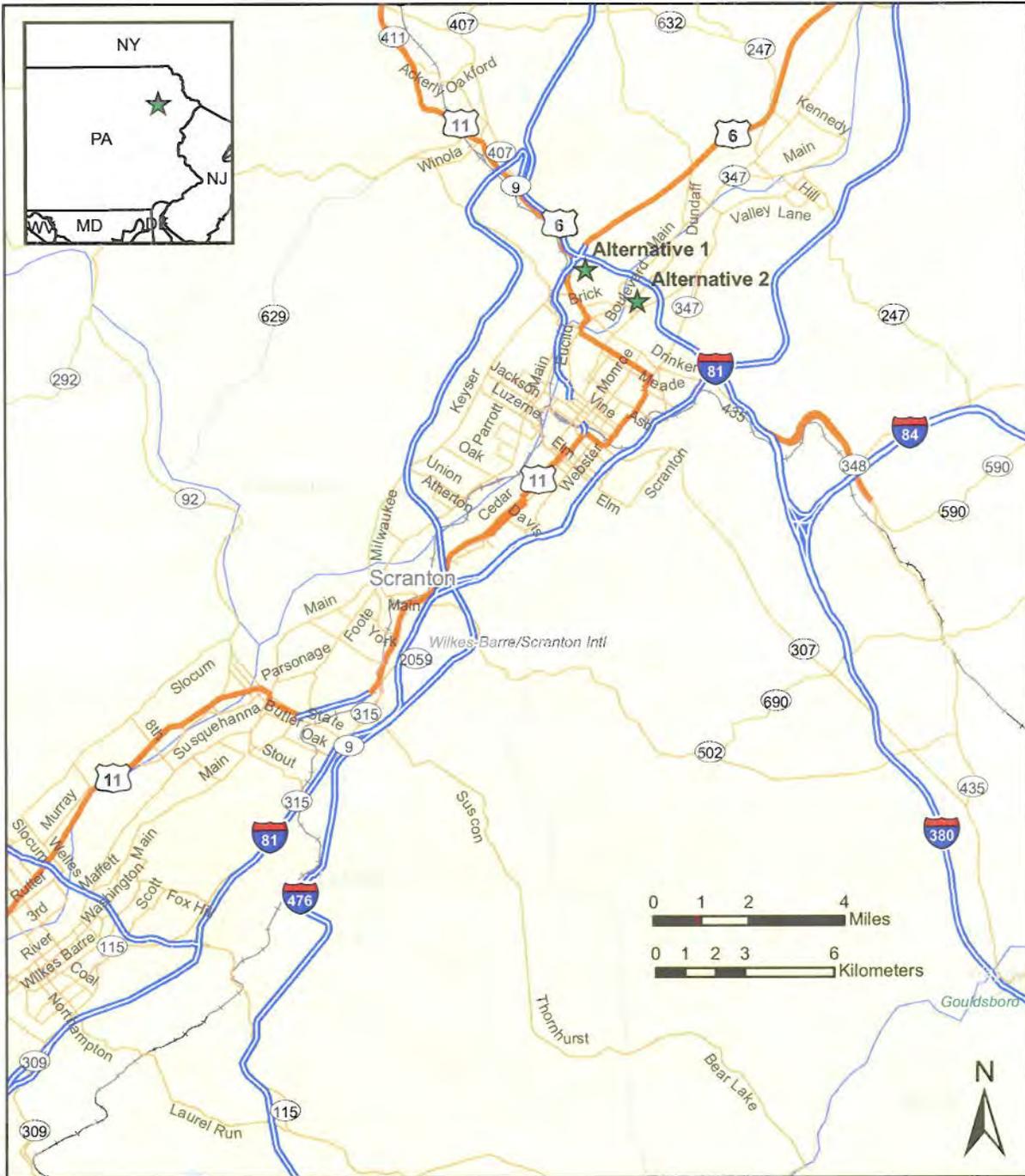
Sincerely,



JOSEPH H. LEDLOW  
Colonel, US Army Reserve  
Regional Engineer

Enclosures:

1. Description of the Proposed Action
2. Location of Proposed Sites
3. Aerial Photograph of Alternative 1
4. Aerial Photograph of Alternative 2
5. National Wetlands Inventory Map



Prepared For:  
 U.S Army Corps of Engineers, Mobile District

Attachment 1  
 Location of Proposed Sites





Prepared For:  
U.S Army Corps of Engineers, Mobile District

Attachment 2  
Aerial Photograph of the Vo-Tech Site - Alternative 1





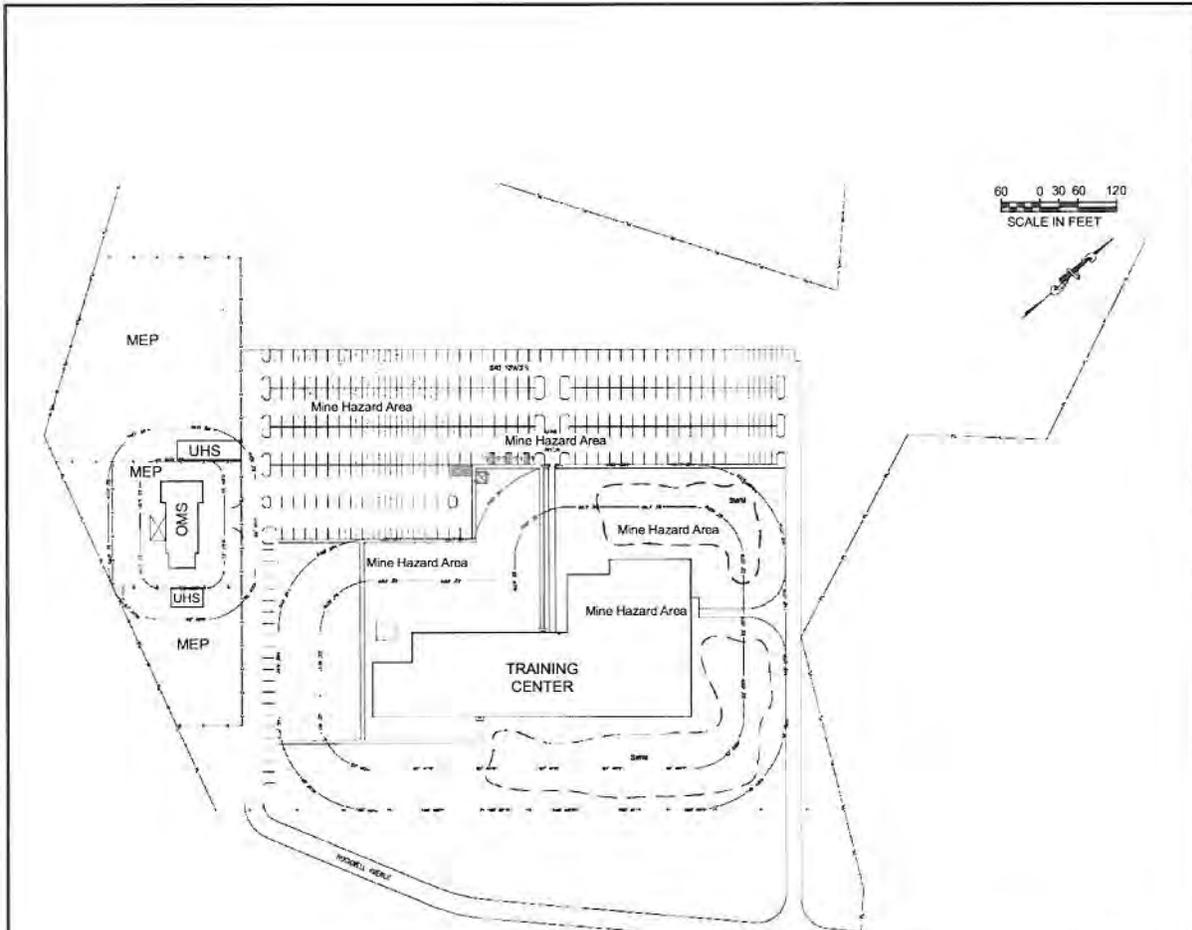
 Approximate boundary of buildable area



Prepared For:  
U.S Army Corps of Engineers, Mobile District

Attachment 3  
Aerial Photograph of the Marvine Business Park Site -  
Alternative 2





Source: Baker and Associates, October 13, 2008: Votch Site

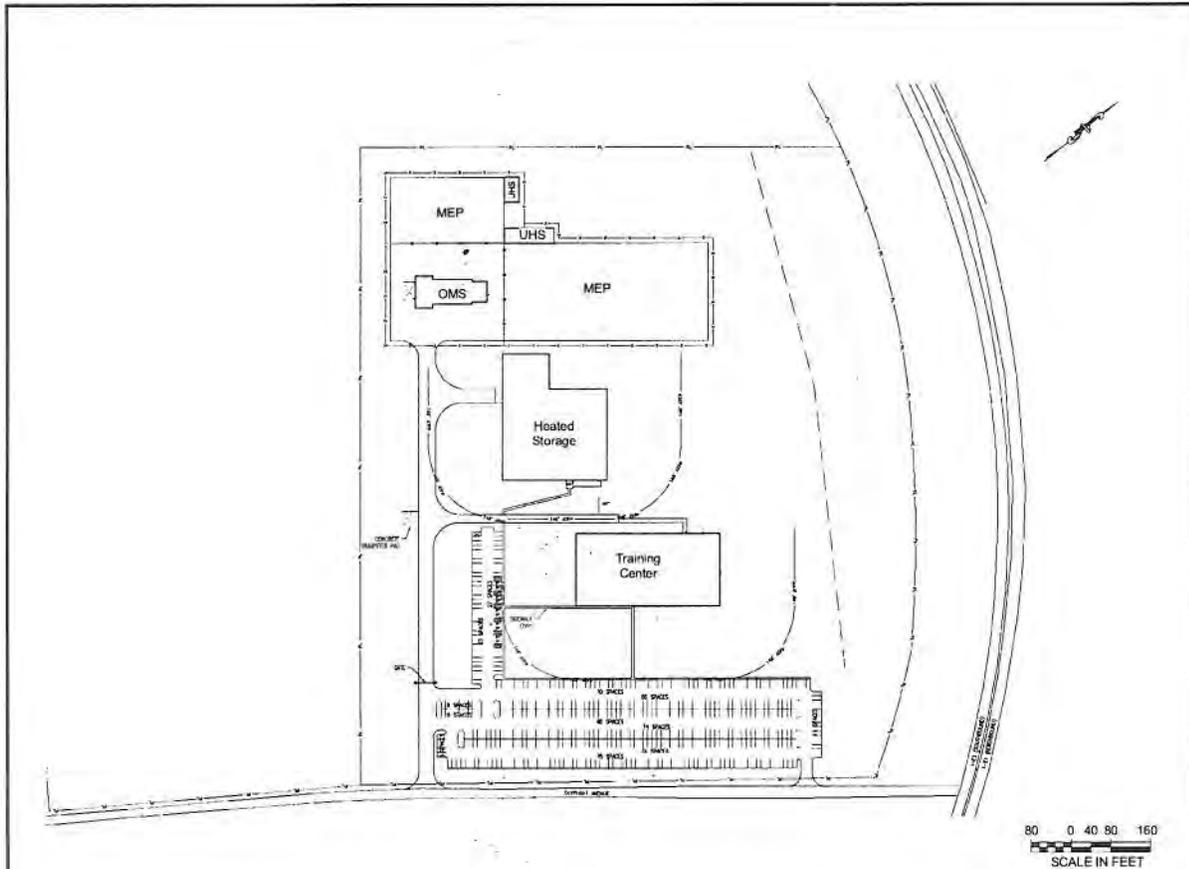


- AFRC Armed Forces Reserve Center
- MEP Military Equipment Parking
- OMS Organizational Maintenance Shop
- UHS Unheated Storage

Prepared For:  
 U.S Army Corps of Engineers, Mobile District

Attachment 4  
 Preliminary AFRC/OMS Site Layout - Alternative 1





Source: Baker and Associates: Marvine Site



- AFRC Armed Forces Reserve Center
- MEP Military Equipment Parking
- OMS Organizational Maintenance Shop
- UHS Unheated Storage

Prepared For:  
U.S Army Corps of Engineers, Mobile District

Attachment 5  
Preliminary AFRC/OMS Site Layout - Alternative 2





**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY**  
HEADQUARTERS, 99TH REGIONAL SUPPORT COMMAND  
5522 NASHVILLE STREET  
FORT DIX, NEW JERSEY 08640-5000



REPLY TO  
ATTENTION OF

January 14, 2009

Mr. Scott J. Christman  
Conservation Officer  
Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission  
Northeast Region  
P.O. Box 88  
Sweet Valley, PA 18656

Dear Mr. Christman,

The intent of this letter is to inform you that the U.S. Army Reserve (USAR), 99th Regional Support Command (RSC) is proposing to construct a new Armed Forces Reserve Center (AFRC) in Scranton, Pennsylvania as part of the restructuring of military bases as required by the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Act (BRAC).

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Base Transition Coordinator  
(412) 604-8168  
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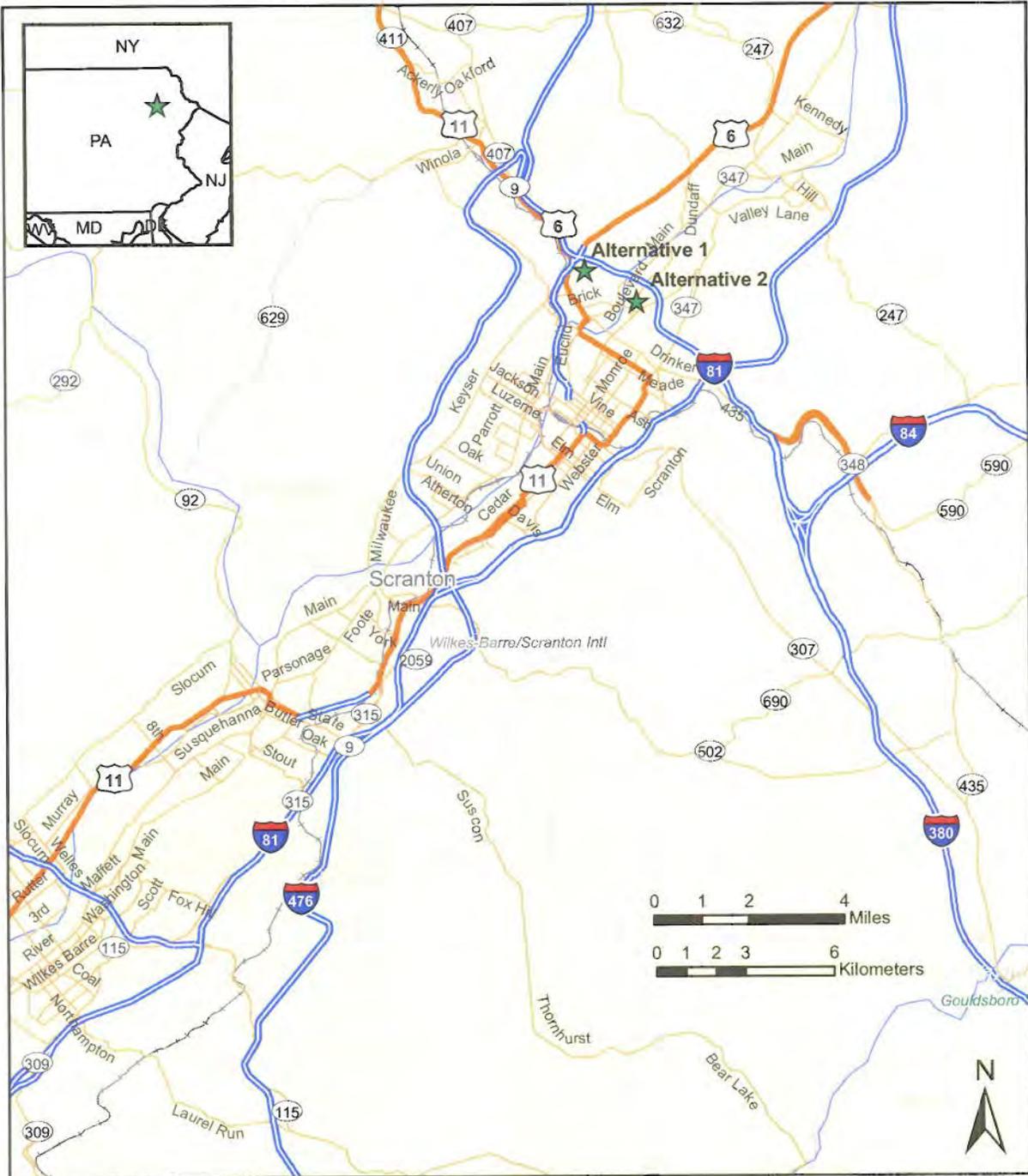
Sincerely,



JOSEPH H. LEDLOW  
Colonel, US Army Reserve  
Regional Engineer

Enclosures:

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2. Location of Proposed Sites
3. Aerial Photograph of Alternative 1
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Prepared For:  
 U.S Army Corps of Engineers, Mobile District

Attachment 1  
 Location of Proposed Sites





Prepared For:  
U.S Army Corps of Engineers, Mobile District

Attachment 2  
Aerial Photograph of the Vo-Tech Site - Alternative 1





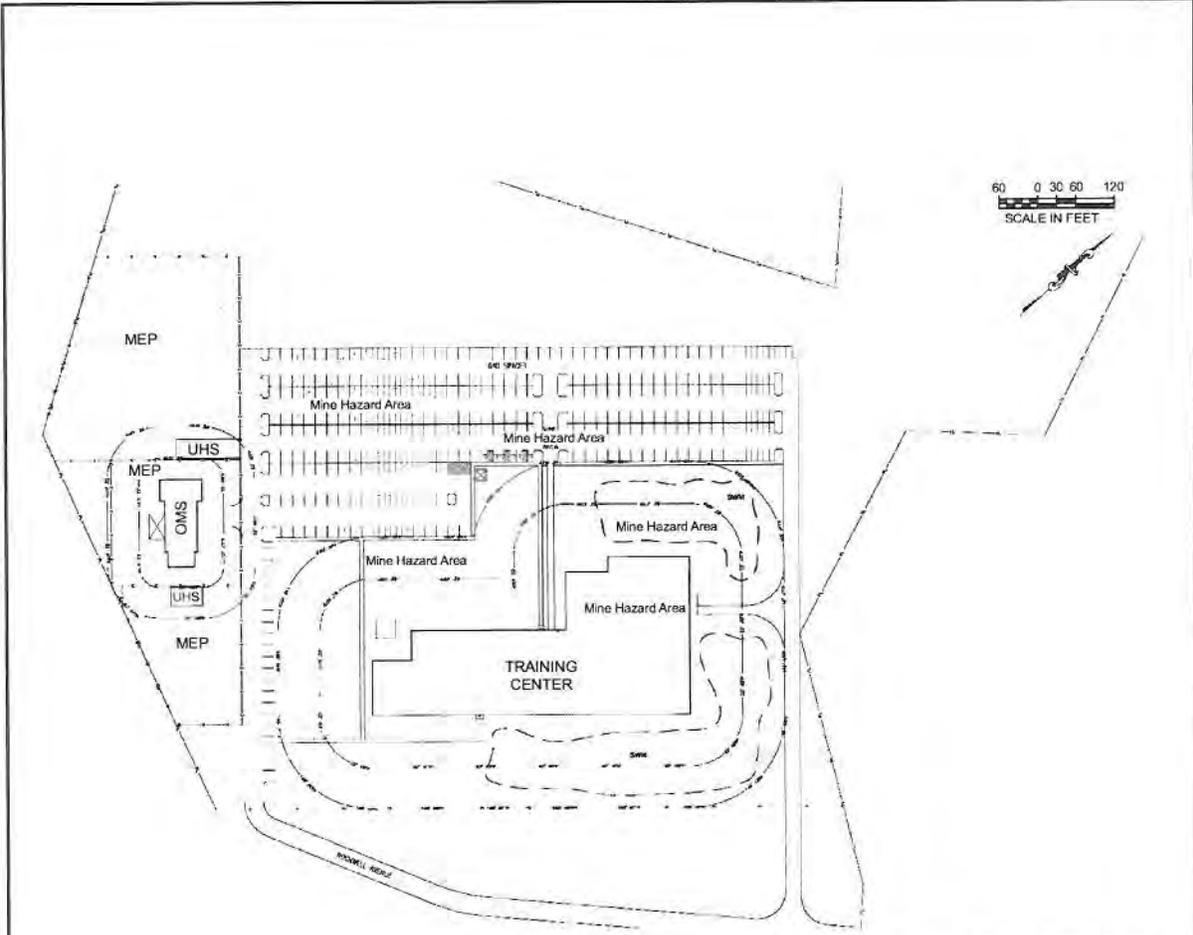
 Approximate boundary of buildable area



Prepared For:  
U.S Army Corps of Engineers, Mobile District

Attachment 3  
Aerial Photograph of the Marvine Business Park Site -  
Alternative 2





Source: Baker and Associates, October 13, 2008: Votech Site

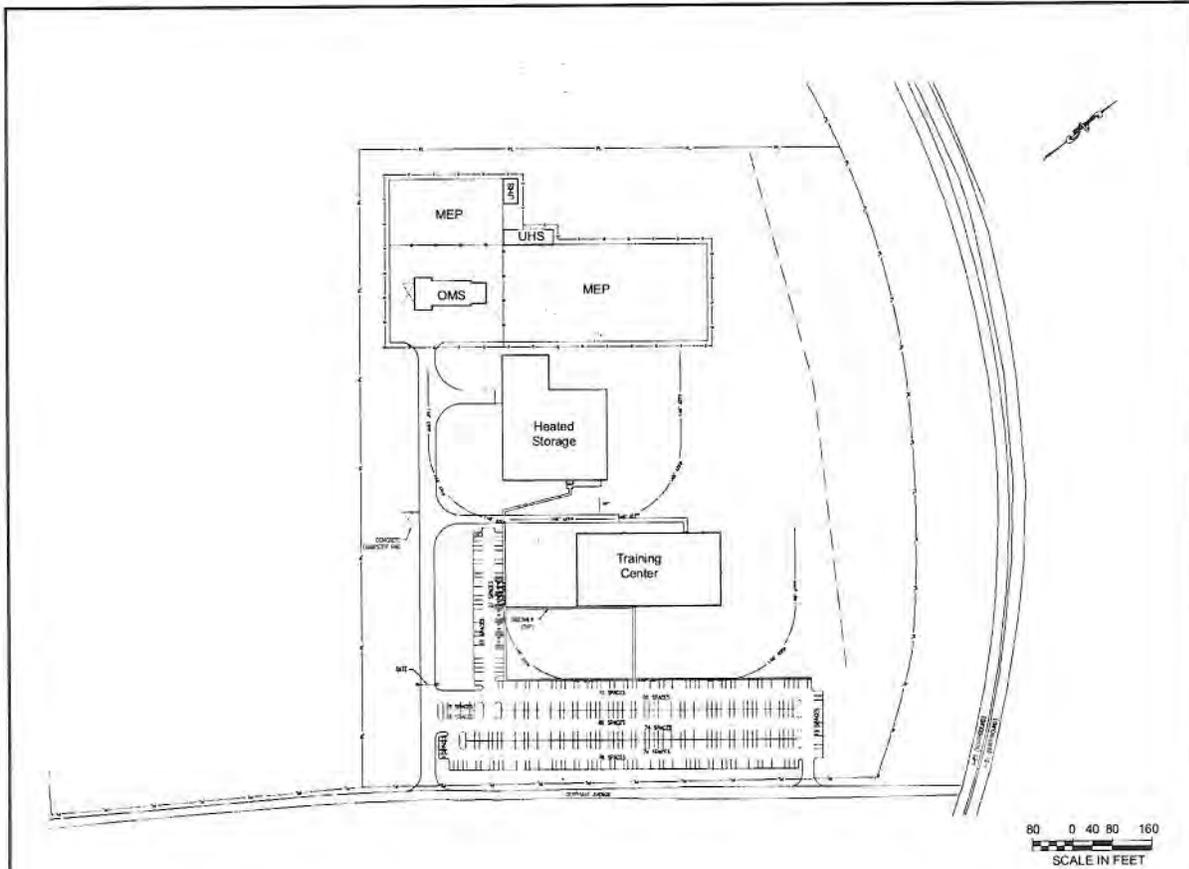


- AFRC Armed Forces Reserve Center
- MEP Military Equipment Parking
- OMS Organizational Maintenance Shop
- UHS Unheated Storage

Prepared For:  
 U.S Army Corps of Engineers, Mobile District

Attachment 4  
 Preliminary AFRC/OMS Site Layout - Alternative 1





Source: Baker and Associates: Marvins Site



- AFRC Armed Forces Reserve Center
- MEP Military Equipment Parking
- OMS Organizational Maintenance Shop
- UHS Unheated Storage

Prepared For:  
 U.S Army Corps of Engineers, Mobile District

Attachment 5  
 Preliminary AFRC/OMS Site Layout - Alternative 2





Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission  
**Bureau for Historic Preservation**  
Commonwealth Keystone Building, 2nd Floor  
400 North Street  
Harrisburg, PA 17120-0093  
www.phmc.state.pa.us

January 16, 2009

Joseph H. Ledlow  
99<sup>th</sup> RSC Engineers  
Department of the Army  
99<sup>th</sup> Regional Support Command  
5522 Nashville Street  
Fort Dix, New Jersey 08640

TO EXPEDITE REVIEW USE  
BHP REFERENCE NUMBER

Re: File No. ER 2009-0554-069-A  
DOD: Proposed Construction of  
Armed Forces Reserve Center, City  
of Scranton, Lackawanna County

Dear Mr. Ledlow:

The Bureau for Historic Preservation (the State Historic Preservation Office) has reviewed the above named project in accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended in 1980 and 1992, and the regulations (36 CFR Part 800) of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation. These requirements include consideration of the project's potential effect upon both historic and archaeological resources.

Based on our survey files, which include both archaeological sites and standing structures, there are no National Register eligible or listed historic or archaeological properties in the area of this proposed project. Therefore, your responsibility for consultation with the State Historic Preservation Office for this project is complete. Should you become aware, from any source, that historic or archaeological properties are located at or near the project site, please notify the Bureau for Historic Preservation at (717) 783-8946.

Sincerely,

Douglas C. McLearn, Chief  
Division of Archaeology &  
Protection

DCM/tmw

# Stockbridge-Munsee Tribal Historic Preservation Office

Sherry White - Tribal Historic Preservation Officer

W13447 Camp 14 Road

P.O. Box 70

Bowler, WI 54416

January 7, 2009

Ramona Garrett  
HQ 99<sup>th</sup> RSC DPW  
ATTN: ARRC-SNJ-PW (GARRETT)  
99 Soldiers Lane  
Coraopolis, PA 15108

RE: Proposed construction of an Armed Forces Reserve Center in Scranton,  
Lackawanna County, PA

Dear Ms. Garrett:

Thank you for contacting the Stockbridge-Munsee Tribe regarding the above referenced project. The Tribe is committed to protecting archaeological sites that are important to tribal heritage, culture and religion. Furthermore, the Tribe is particularly concerned with archaeological sites that may contain human burial remains and associated funerary objects.

As described in your correspondence, this proposed project is not in a region of archaeological interest to the Stockbridge-Munsee Tribe.

We appreciate your cooperation in notifying the Historic Preservation Office. Should you have any questions, feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,



Sherry White,  
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer

# EASTERN SHAWNEE TRIBE OF OKLAHOMA

Cultural Preservation Department

P.O. Box 350, Seneca, MO 64865

918 666 2435 ext 247, [rdushane@estoo.net](mailto:rdushane@estoo.net)

January 8, 2009

**RE: EA for AFRC in Scranton, PN**

Ramona Garrett  
HQ 99<sup>th</sup> RSC DPW  
99 Soldiers Lane  
Coraopolis, PA 15108

Dear Ms. Garrett,

Thank you for the communication pertaining to the above referenced project. The Eastern Shawnee Tribe is committed to protecting archaeological sites that are important to tribal heritage.

At this time we are unaware of any cultural significance to the two alternative sites for said project in Lakawanna County. Construction on previously strip mined lands has low probability for inadvertent archaeological discoveries. In the event cultural resources are discovered we ask that you contact our office.

We appreciate your cooperation in contacting the Eastern Shawnee Tribe. Should you have any questions, feel free to contact me.

Best regards,

Robin Dushane  
Eastern Shawnee Tribe  
Cultural Preservation Director/NAGPRA Contact



# United States Department of the Interior



FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE  
Pennsylvania Field Office  
315 South Allen Street, Suite 322  
State College, Pennsylvania 16801-4850

February 3, 2009

Joseph H. Ledlow  
Department of the Army  
Headquarters, 99<sup>th</sup> Regional Support Command  
5522 Nashville Street  
Fort Dix, NJ 08640-5000

RE: USFWS Project #2009-0549

Dear Mr. Ledlow:

This responds to your letter dated January 14, 2009, for the proposed Armed Forces Reserve Center located in Scranton, Lackawanna County, Pennsylvania. The following comments are provided pursuant to the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (87 Stat. 884, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*) to ensure the protection of federally listed endangered and threatened species, and the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (48 Stat. 401, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 661 *et seq.*) to ensure protection of fish and wildlife resources.

## Federally Listed and Proposed Species

Except for occasional transient species, no federally listed or proposed threatened or endangered species under our jurisdiction are known to occur within the project impact area. Therefore, no biological assessment nor further consultation under the Endangered Species Act is required with the Service. This determination is valid for two years from the date of this letter. If the proposed project has not been fully implemented prior to this, an additional review by this office will be necessary. Should project plans change, or if additional information on listed or proposed species becomes available, this determination may be reconsidered. A compilation of certain federal status species in Pennsylvania is enclosed.

## Aquatic Resources

The Soil Survey for Lackawanna County indicates that wetlands are likely to occur within the project boundaries. Udorthents (hydric inclusions) and Urban land/Dump and Mine lands containing hydric inclusions occur within the boundaries of the proposed project area. These soil types are typically found in wet areas, bottomlands, and depressions, and may indicate the presence of wetlands on the site. Any final determination of whether wetlands are present on the proposed project site should include

a site visit by a qualified individual trained in wetland identification. We recommend that you avoid, and minimize any unavoidable impacts to, aquatic resources when planning and constructing the Reserve Center.

Work in streams and wetlands requires permits from the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection and the Army Corps of Engineers. We recommend that you contact the DEP and the Corps at the addresses found in the enclosed list for information on permit requirements. Please be advised that the Service generally recommends that the Corps and DEP not grant permits to destroy streams and wetlands. A description of aquatic and terrestrial habitat impacts for the entire project, including all infrastructure, and access roads that will be included in the project area should be submitted to the appropriate agency at the time of permit application.

*To avoid potential delays in reviewing your project, please use the above-referenced USFWS project tracking number in any future correspondence regarding this project.*

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact Pam Shellenberger of my staff at 814-234-4090.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Densmore", followed by a long horizontal line extending to the right.

David Densmore  
Supervisor

## STATE AND FEDERAL WETLAND REGULATORY AGENCIES – PENNSYLVANIA

### Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection

<b>DEP Regional Offices</b>	<b>County Coverage</b>
Northwest Regional Office 230 Chestnut Street Meadville, PA 16335-3481	Butler, Clarion, Crawford, Elk, Erie, Forest, Jefferson, Lawrence, McKean, Mercer, Venango and Warren
Southwest Regional Office 400 Waterfront Drive Pittsburgh, PA 15222-4745	Allegheny, Armstrong, Beaver, Cambria, Fayette, Greene, Indiana, Somerset, Washington and Westmoreland
Northcentral Regional Office 208 West Third Street, Suite 101 Williamsport, PA 17701-6448	Bradford, Cameron, Clearfield, Centre, Clinton, Columbia, Lycoming, Montour, Northumberland, Potter, Snyder, Sullivan, Tioga and Union
Southcentral Regional Office 909 Elmerton Avenue Harrisburg, PA 17110-8200	Adams, Bedford, Berks, Blair, Cumberland, Dauphin, Franklin, Fulton, Huntingdon, Juniata, Lancaster, Lebanon, Mifflin, Perry and York
Northeast Regional Office 2 Public Square Wilkes-Barre, PA 18711-0790	Carbon, Lackawanna, Lehigh, Luzerne, Monroe, Northampton, Pike, Schuylkill, Susquehanna, Wayne and Wyoming
Southeast Regional Office 2 East Main Street Norristown, PA 19401	Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Montgomery and Philadelphia

### U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

<b>U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Offices</b>	<b>Area Covered</b>
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Baltimore District, Regulatory Branch P.O. Box 1715 Baltimore, MD 21203	Susquehanna River watershed
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Philadelphia District, Regulatory Branch 100 Penn Square East Philadelphia, PA 19107-3390	Delaware River watershed
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Pittsburgh District, Regulatory Branch William S. Moorhead Federal Building 1000 Liberty Ave. Pittsburgh, PA 15222-4186	Ohio River watershed



COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
**PENNSYLVANIA GAME COMMISSION**  
2001 ELMERTON AVENUE, HARRISBURG, PA 17110-9797

February 2, 2009

Ms. Mona Garrett  
HG 99<sup>th</sup> RSC DPW  
99 Soldiers Lane  
Coraopolis, PA 15108

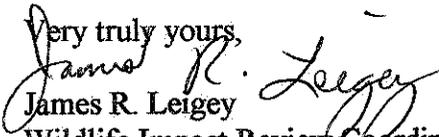
In re: Armed Forces Reserve Center (AFRC) Project  
Scranton, Pennsylvania

Dear Ms. Garrett:

This is in response to your letter dated of January 14, 2009 regarding the potential impacts of your project on special concern species of birds or mammals and State Game Lands.

Our office review has determined that your project should not cause any adverse impacts to any special concern species of birds or mammals recognized by the Pennsylvania Game Commission or State Game Lands. This determination may be reconsidered if project plans change or extend beyond the present study area, or if additional information becomes available on state-listed species or State Game Lands.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (717) 783-5957. Please be advised that this determination is only valid for one year from the date of this letter.

Very truly yours,  
  
James R. Leigey  
Wildlife Impact Review Coordinator  
Division of Environmental Planning  
And Habitat Protection  
Bureau of Wildlife Habitat Management

JRL/pfb

Cc: File

ADMINISTRATIVE BUREAUS:

PERSONNEL: 717-787-7836 ADMINISTRATION: 717-787-5670 AUTOMOTIVE AND PROCURMENT: 717-787-6594  
LICENSE DIVISION: 717-787-2084 WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT: 717-787-5529 INFORMATION & EDUCATION: 717-787-6286  
WILDLIFE PROTECTION: 717-787-5740 WILDLIFE HABITAT MANAGEMENT: 717-787-6818 REAL ESTATE: 717-787-6568  
AUTOMATED TECHNOLOGY SYSTEMS: 717-787-4076

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*Environmental Assessment for Construction of an  
Armed Forces Reserve Center and  
Implementation of BRAC 05 Recommendations at  
Scranton, Pennsylvania*

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*APPENDIX B*

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**ECONOMIC IMPACT FORECAST SYSTEM REPORT**

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## APPENDIX B. ECONOMIC IMPACT FORECAST SYSTEM REPORT

This appendix provides the Economic Impact Forecast System Report for the Scranton Proposed Action.

### EIFS REPORT

#### PROJECT NAME

Scranton

#### FORECAST INPUT

Change In Local Expenditures	\$32,000,000
Change In Civilian Employment	0
Average Income of Affected Civilian	\$0
Percent Expected to Relocate	0
Change In Military Employment	0
Average Income of Affected Military	\$0
Percent of Military Living On-post	0

#### FORECAST OUTPUT

Employment Multiplier	2.83
Income Multiplier	2.83
Sales Volume - Direct	\$32,000,000
Sales Volume - Indirect	\$58,560,000
Sales Volume - Total	\$90,560,000 1.06%
Income - Direct	\$6,357,656
Income - Indirect	\$11,634,510
Income - Total (place of work)	\$17,992,170 0.36%
Employment - Direct	166
Employment - Indirect	305
Employment - Total	471 0.40%
Local Population	0
Local Off-base Population	0 0.00%

#### RTV SUMMARY

	Sales Volume	Income	Employment	Population
<b>Positive RTV</b>	11.88 %	9.27 %	2.15 %	1.14 %
<b>Negative RTV</b>	-6.94 %	-5.65 %	-2.73 %	-0.74 %